



Switzerland as Guest of Honour at the Bologna Children's Book Fair 2019 Bologna-Bern "a testa in su" (right way up)

Two illustrated children's guides to look at the world with fresh eyes

There are as many ways to talk about a city as there are eyes to look at it, so observing and exploring a city is a game without end. To mark the occasion of Switzerland's presence as Guest of Honour at the 56th Bologna Children's Book Fair, **Bologna a testa in su** is a project involving two cities – Bologna and Bern – and two illustrators. **Johanna Schaible** is among the most interesting and promising young illustrators in Switzerland, and **Irene Penazzi** is a young talent among Italian illustrators. They have collaborated to promote the re-discovery of their cities by the cities' own inhabitants, and especially by the youngest of these inhabitants.

The two artists both spent a week in residence in the city of the "other", and thanks to a special reciprocal arrangement, they produced two small illustrated "writer's guides" to Bologna and to Bern.

Irene Penazzi was in Bern, while Bologna hosted Johanna Schaible.

Thus, two small publications were born, books to be coloured in like scrapbooks, to be read like books, to be kept like diaries, short booklets helping us to discover, like with the aid of a map, hidden or otherwise unknown details in various parts of the cities they are about.

The intended audience is above all children, who can actively participate to the visual itineraries imagined by the artists, embarking on an experience of first-person observation. They can walk around the city, with eyes open and looking up, making a personal connection to an urban fabric of playfulness and empathy. They will be able to discover– while having fun – what it means to orient themselves and to pay close attention to their surroundings, using the book as a possible guide but also as a tool of reinvention as they colour it in.

The project is supported by the Hamelin Cultural Association and the city of Bern, in collaboration with the city of Bologna and the SBVV (Swiss Association of Booksellers and Publishers).

The two guides are available during the Book Fair at the Cineteca di Bologna, at the Fair, at the Salaborsa library, at the Scuderia and in several selected schools.

Irene Penazzi (1989) is an Italian illustrator. She holds a degree in illustration from the Accademia di Belle Arti in Bologna, and has collaborated with the University of Applied Science in Hamburg, the Hamelin Cultural Association and the bookseller Giannino Stoppani. She works with the Cineteca di Bologna, Panini Ragazzi and Il Sicomoro. She recently published the illustrated album *Dans le Jardin* (Maison Eliza, 2018).
irenenpenazzi.blogspot.com

Johanna Schaible (1984) is an artist and illustrator based in Bern. Her work moves along the borders between illustration, art and design. She has a degree in illustration and visual communication from the Lucerne School of Art and Design, and in 2014 won the Comics Prize for young illustrators along with Dimitra Charamandas. Her works have been exhibited at Newton Hall in Prague, at the New Gallery in London and at Despacio in Costa Rica.
www.johannaschaible.ch

You can follow the journeys of Irene and Johanna daily on Instagram at #bolognaatestainsu