

## **The 56th BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR 1-4 April 2019**

### **WORLD ILLUSTRATION: TRENDS AND CREATIVITY ALL THE EXHIBITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ILLUSTRATORS AT THE FAIR**

**The Illustrators Exhibition, The Illustrators Survival Corner,  
the solo exhibitions of Igor Oleynikov, Vendi Vernić and Masha Titova**

**Our Voice: Celebrating the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Awards**

### **I&D – Illustrators and Design**

Since over half a century, the Bologna Children's Book Fair has been the most important professional gathering on the top trends of illustration and the global orientation of creativity. The professional category of illustrators lies at the heart of many events and opportunities, finding support to develop its activities and bringing them to the attention of all players in the book and children's content market. The Fair is the place where artists find their way and publishers discover new talents.

#### **THE EXHIBITION ILLUSTRATORS AND ITS OPPORTUNITIES**

**2901 illustrators** from **62 countries** for a total of **14.505 plates** are examined by a jury of five international illustration and children's publishing experts. **76** selected artists from **27 countries**: these are the figures of the 2019 edition of the **Illustrators Exhibition**, which will be staged in the heart of the Bologna Children's Book Fair.

A unique professional gathering opportunity to share stories, cultures, styles and traditions from every part of the globe. For over fifty years the Illustration Exhibition of the Bologna Children's Book Fair has proved to be a unique international showcase of the latest artistic trends in illustration, as well as a platform for prominent personalities as well as emerging artists, confronting and influencing each other in this annual event, much awaited by anyone doing business in the publishing industry.

Earlier this year, on January 7th and 8th, an authoritative jury of five prominent international personalities in illustration met in Bologna: **Diego Bianchi (Bianki)**, Argentine illustrator, co-founder and artistic director of the publisher Pequeño editor, awarded at the BOP - Bologna Prize for the Best Children's Publisher of the Year in 2015; **Beatrice Vincent**, an expert in illustration, Editor at the French publishing house Albin Michel Jeunesse for over twenty years; **Harriët van Reek**, award-winning Dutch illustrator; **Maciej Byliniak**, Senior Editor at the Polish publishing house Dwie Siostry, winner of the 2018 edition of the BOP - Bologna Prize for the Best Children's Publisher of the Year; and **Alessandro Sanna**, Italian illustrator, published worldwide.

In a four-day full immersion session in Bologna, the five jurors examined, discussed, reviewed and selected the artists of the 2019 Illustrators Exhibition, which, after the success of the two past editions, will once again be presented in an **unconventional display** with plates placed on horizontal shelves, allowing visitors to walk around them and observe them from the same perspective as the jury.

The jury presents its selection on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11 am at the Illustrators' Café.

Consistently with its role as an international spotlight, the exhibition will then continue on a two-year world tour reaching the most important cultural venues in different countries, primarily Japan, China and South Korea. Just as International is the distribution of the '**Illustrators Annual**', the catalogue - published by Corraini editions who is also in charge for its worldwide distribution in specialized bookstores. The Annual is published in Japan by JBBY - Japanese Board on Books for Young People, in the United States by Chronicle Books and in China by Foreign Languages Press. The cover of the 2019 edition is a work by **Igor Oleynikov**, the Russian illustrator, winner of the **Hans Christian Andersen Award 2018**.

Other exposure opportunities are available for the younger artists: participants under 35 are automatically candidates to **the Bologna Children's Book Fair International Illustration Prize - Fundación SM**, offering the winner a 15.000 dollar grant for the publication of a picture book, as well as the organization of a solo exhibition in the next edition of the Fair.

Moreover, a young illustrator among those selected for the Illustrators Exhibition will be assigned the task of creating the **Visual Identity BCBF 2020**, in collaboration with the design studio Chialab.

Another initiative for young illustrators at their debut is the following: In 2012, Ars in Fabula - School of Illustration, partnering with the Bologna Children's Book Fair, established the annual scholarship **ARS IN FABULA - Grant Award**, awarding a previously unpublished Illustrators Exhibition artist under 30 years of age.

Once again in this edition, Bologna Children's Book Fair and Pitti Immagine Bimbo confirm the partnership they started two years ago with the project **Off the Page ... and in the World of Fashion**: the purpose is to create a bridge between two industries operating in different contexts - publishing and fashion - and find common ground in the world of illustration. A panel of experts will select the authors whose works seem able to engage in a dialogue with the brands at the fashion trade fair. The plates will be showcased at the appointment number **89 of Pitti Immagine Bimbo**, scheduled from June 20-22, 2019.

#### **THE SOLO EXHIBITS OF IGOR OLEJNIKOV, VENDI VERNIĆ AND MASHA TITOVA**

Three solo exhibitions add to the Illustrators Exhibition at Services Center.

To begin with, Russian illustrator **Igor Oleynikov**, winner of the prestigious HC Andersen Award in 2018 and author of the Illustrators Annual cover, bringing a selection of original works to the Fair. The motivations of the Andersen award - basically the Nobel Prize for children's literature - describe Oleynikov like an illustrator who "brings to life an extraordinary cast of characters, using the great vocabulary, style and artistic passion of Russian art".

Visitors will also discover **La casa de fieras**, the exhibition of **Vendi Vernić**, a Croatian artist who was awarded the IX International Award for Illustration Bologna Children's Book Fair - Fundación SM in last year's edition of the Fair. The original illustrations on display are part of the book published by SM for the Fair which will be presented at the Illustrators' Café on Monday, April 1st.

Last, the visual identity of this 2019 edition: the exhibit "**Visula Identity Workshop**" will evoke the creative path developed by young Russian artist **Masha Titova** under the guidance of **Chialab** to create the new 2019 look of the Bologna Children's Book Fair. A colourful world of foxes, butterflies, elegant men with hats, dragons, with figures coming in and out of windows, punches, pleats, in a constant dialogue between page and wall. Characters, textures and colours are drawn together to create vertical or horizontal environments, palaces or squares, staircases and streets. Illustrations of different sizes and formats represent the many sections that make up the Bologna Fair, a labyrinth where one loses oneself, sinking into the pages-walls, where sometimes figures and backgrounds become one. Masha Titova and Chialab unveil the "making-of" of the BCBF2019 Visual Identity Workshop on Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at the **Illustrators' Survival Corner**.

#### **OUR VOICE: CELEBRATING THE CORETTA SCOTT KING ILLUSTRATOR AWARDS**

Illustration is also at the forefront in the exhibitions at the Mall, like the one for the **50th anniversary of the Coretta Scott King Award** entitled to Martin Luther King Jr. and his wife Coretta Scott King. The exhibition recounts the life, the history and the African-American culture through the works of over 30 among major picture books authors.

The award, given annually by the American Library Association's Scott King Book Awards Committee, is one of the most important recognitions in children's literature, highlighting the value of African-American authors whose works show a real appreciation for African-American culture and its universal values. Organized by the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature (NCCIL) of Abilene, Texas, this exhibition is the largest selection of works by prize winners ever collected since the award was founded in 1974. The exhibit showcases the awarded works; the full exhibit may be visited digitally thanks to the video and audio files produced by TeachingBooks.net for the Eric Carle Museum. The plates on display are all different from one another, both in terms of artistic techniques as well as of narration - ranging from those by Josephine Baker, Jean-Michel Basquiat and Langston Hughes to works by Martin Luther King Jr., made with techniques of collage, oil painting, watercolour, photography and ceramics.

### **THE SILENT BOOK CONTEST FINALISTS - GIANNI DE CONNO AWARD**

The shortlisted works of the Silent Book Contest - Gianni De Conno Award, nominated by an international jury, will be on display at the Bologna Children's Book Fair Mall. The plates of the "silent books" develop narratives through the mere evocative power of images, with stories that go beyond all linguistic, cultural or generational boundaries.

### **I&D - ILLUSTRATORS & DESIGN**

In recent years we have seen how illustration can be successfully interpreted in many areas, from the arts to the fastest moving consumer goods. **I&D - Illustrators & Design** is an exhibition - born from the collaboration between BCBF and Bologna Licensing Trade Fair (BLTF) - aiming to express this peculiarity.

The exhibition is presented in BLTF Pavilion 32 and consists of a selection of prototypes of new products made by manufacturing companies inspired by a selection of works by the artists of the Illustrators' Exhibition 2018. From fabrics for curtains, tablecloths and sheets to lamps and other furnishing accessories, illustration is everywhere. BLTF's partner companies were inspired by the countless Italian and foreign illustrations selected last year to create new manufactured products or improve existing product collections, contributing to an operation that goes well beyond the Fair. After the exhibition, the products will actually become part of companies' catalogues and proposed to the Italian and international markets. I&D - Illustrators & Design therefore offers illustrators great visibility as well as opening new possibilities of collaboration and career opportunities. Finally, for companies, this space is a true source of inspiration to understand the enormous commercial potential that lies in the world of illustration.

The companies involved include: Tessitura Toscana Telerie - Home and Bed Textile; F.lli Carillo - Home and Bed Textile; Pascucci Printing House 1826 - Home Textile; W-Lamp - Paper Lamps; Yapadapadou - Home Furnishings Products for Children; Illustrabimbi - Childrenwear.

### **THE CAFE' AND THE ILLUSTRATORS' WALL**

The Illustrator's Café has always hosted the discussions of the juries of the BCBF awards and of the Illustrators Exhibition as well as debates on the state of the art of illustration worldwide, presentation of the Bologna Ragazzi Award winners as well as author talks with the most prominent figures of children's publishing and announcements of the most important international awards. Next to the Café, the "Illustrators' Wall" has become famous among the artists attending the Fair. Day after day during the Children's Book Fair, the long, empty wall is covered with drawings, business cards, artistic proposals, contacts. By the end of the Fair, it becomes a unique, illustrated showcase, as well as a strategic platform for networking and creating and professional opportunities.

### **THE ILLUSTRATORS SURVIVAL CORNER AND SHANGHAI IMPRESSIONS**

This space for illustrators made its debut with great success at the 2017 edition. In just two years it has become the "coolest" place of the Fair. The Illustrators Survival Corner hosts international publishers and players of the industry who share their experience by holding master classes, workshops and portfolio reviews. The many illustrators who attend the Fair every year looking for professional opportunities and development have a place where they can meet, learn, share experiences and difficulties. In 2018, **over 6,000 illustrators participated to over one hundred events** regarding the many different aspects of the profession - going from how to design a picture book to the art of self-promotion, from how to relate with the publisher and what to know about contracts, to social media skills and insights about working in the toy industry.

The Illustrators Survival Corner, located at Pavilion 30, is a BCBF initiative created with the collaboration of Mimaster illustration, a world-famous educational institution in illustration, offering an exciting daily schedule of free events (reservation is recommended). Special thanks to Maimeri and Lyra for their kind supply of stationery and drawing materials for the workshops and the classes at the Corner.

Among the many events of 2019: a public conversation by the winner of the Golden Pinwheel Grand Award (China) **Heimi**, the lecture by **Maria Ballarotti**, editor of the Geronimo Stilton series, the masterclass dedicated to the different forms of creativity with **Beatrice Alemagna, Anna Castagnoli, Roger Mello, Emilio Urberuaga, Xavier Zabala and Vania Trolese**. **Kestutis Kasparavicius**, Lithuanian author and illustrator gives a lecture on the structure and narration of illustrated books for children starting from his books, translated in over 22 countries; **Klaas Verplancke, Katsumi Komagata and Christopher Myers** advise aspiring illustrators whilst

viewing their portfolio. Lorenzo Mattotti presents his new Pinocchio, **Maria Russo** editor of the New York Times talks about Tomi Ungerer and his extraordinary work, **Federico Maggioni** commemorates Grazia Nidasio and her unforgettable illustrated narratives. Not to forget the countless events focusing on what's new at international level, with conferences on publishing for children in France, Russia, Spain and China. Among the workshops: live painting with **Martoz**; construction and transformation of the image with **Diego Bianchi**; and creation of fantastic worlds with **Masha Titova**, the illustrator who created the visual identity of BCBF 2019.

The Survival Corner also hosts the Shanghai Impressions exhibition, a project created by the China Shanghai International Children's Book Fair which is part of the BCBF Event Network. Last November, the three Spanish artists Joan Negrescolor, Miguel Pang Ly and Adolfo Serra, guests of CCBF, stayed in Shanghai for a real ten-day artist's residence, walking around the city, getting lost in the streets of the most avant-garde neighborhoods and venturing into the most remote corners, to find that breath of humankind that a metropolis of 25 million inhabitants seems to have lost. A selection of 40 magnificent illustrations is now displayed, using the most diverse techniques and materials, allowing visitors to follow their own path to grasp the "impressions" of the Chinese megalopolis.

## **THE CHILDREN SPECTATOR**

Bologna Children's Book Fair is a partner of the four-year project **Mapping - A map on the aesthetics of performing arts for early years**, an artistic research supported by the European Union, dedicated to the relationship between early childhood (children from 0 to 6 years) and performing arts. The project involves 18 partners from 17 countries, including La Baracca - Testoni Ragazzi, the Children's Theater of the City of Bologna as well as the Fair. The first step BCBF took in this project was organizing the first edition of the international competition "The Children Spectator": 31 illustrators were selected among 418 participants from 45 countries and regions, by a jury composed by Ivan Canu (Mimaster, Milan), Mauro Evangelista (Ars in Fabula, Macerata), Giorgia Grilli (University of Bologna) and Roberto Frabetti (La Baracca - Testoni Ragazzi).

The 31 selected illustrators are also shortlisted for the final exhibition of the project, alongside the illustrations of four international artists: **Katsumi Komagata** from Japan, the Spanish **Manuel Marsol**, the Argentine **Fabian Negrin** and **Klaas Verplancke** from Belgium. The selected illustrations are presented in the exhibition "The Children Spectator" at the Testoni Ragazzi Theater in Bologna. The project "Mapping - a map on the aesthetics of performing arts for early years", is presented with Fabian Negrin, Katsumi Komagata and Klaas Verplancke, at the Caffè degli Illustratori on April 3rd at 5.30pm.