

**56 ^ BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR
1-4 April 2019**

ITALIAN EXCELLENCE FOR GIANNI RODARI
**Celebrating the centenary of his birth, a new partnership between
BCBF, Italian Institutes of Culture and the Emilia-Romagna Region
promotes the best of Italian illustration abroad**

Gianni Rodari was born on October 23, 1920, and therefore 2020 will be his **centenary**. The Bologna Children's Book Fair wishes to celebrate this anniversary by reediting the best of his creative works. Rodari was the first Italian author to be awarded with the prestigious Hans Christian Andersen Award in 1970, one of the most innovative writers for children, author of fairy tales, rhymes, stories and novels, as well as of the fundamental essay "La grammatica della fantasia" (*The grammar of imagination*), translated in many countries, a true milestone of the pedagogical-literary culture.

His works are reprinted year after year, often reinterpreted by great illustrators. Inspired by this idea, and following up on the *Eccellenze Italiane* exhibition created in 2015 and presented with great success in over 10 countries, the **Bologna Children's Book Fair, The Emilia-Romagna Region and the Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco with the collaboration of the Consulate General of Italy team up to promote a new edition of the exhibition involving all the Italian illustrators who have interpreted Rodari.**

Italian excellence for Gianni Rodari will thus represent a timeline of Italian taste, featuring historical figures such as Bruno Munari and Emanuele Luzzati, as well as great contemporaries and younger illustrators.

The exhibition will feature the works of twenty one illustrators: **Bruno Munari, Emanuele Luzzati, Altan, Beatrice Alemagna, Gaia Stella, Olimpia Zagnoli, Manuel Fior, Alessandro Sanna, Valerio Vitali, Simona Mulazzani, Chiara Armellini, Anna Laura Cantone, Fulvio Testa, Maria Chiara Di Giorgio, Giulia Orecchia, Nicoletta Costa, Federico Maggioni, Francesca Ghermandi, Pia Valentini, Vittoria Facchini and Elenia Beretta.**

Each author will be represented by three works, all collected in a **catalogue published by Einaudi Ragazzi** - holding the world rights of the writer's work - and conveyed through the Italian Cultural Institutes who will host the exhibition (the first two editions are already scheduled in San Francisco and Portland this fall)

The exhibition and the catalogue will be curated by Cooperativa Giannino Stoppani/Accademia Drosselmeier.