

## **BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR**

The world tour of the exhibition

*Illustrators for Gianni Rodari. Italian Excellence*

heads for Auckland, New Zealand – 17/ 25 October

Developed by **Bologna Children's Book Fair**, the **Emilia-Romagna Region** and the **Italian Cultural Institute in San Francisco**, the exhibition *Illustrators for Gianni Rodari. Italian Excellence* continues its international tour. Marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of Gianni Rodari, the first Italian writer to win the prestigious Hans Christian Andersen Award (1970), the exhibition was inaugurated in Portland, USA, on 25 September last, and shown virtually during the months of lockdown on Bologna book fair's website. Now, finally, the physical edition will be open in **Auckland, New Zealand from 17 to 25 October** during Artweek Auckland and the Italian Language Week in the World.

Curated by Cooperativa Giannino Stoppani/Accademia Drosselmeier, and accompanied by a catalogue published by Einaudi Ragazzi, this tribute to Gianni Rodari comprises the original illustrators of 21 artists who down the years have given their personal interpretation of the author's work. As well as celebrating an author who is still read and loved by children in many different countries, and the source of inspiration for great illustrators the world over, the exhibition is also a sort of timeline of Italian illustration. The works on show range from the all-time greats of design and illustration like Bruno Munari and Emanuele Luzzati to contemporary giants like Beatrice Alemagna and Olimpia Zagnoli, along with Altan, Gaia Stella, Manuel Fior, Alessandro Sanna, Valerio Vidali, 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.

*"New Zealand has a strong children's literature tradition but Rodari is practically unknown", says Alessandra Zecchini, Oratia Books Media Director and coordinator of the exhibition. "We learned of this exhibition through the Bologna Children's Book Fair and immediately thought of bringing it here to New Zealand to show New Zealanders Italian excellence in publishing and illustration".*

"This leg of the exhibition in New Zealand", says Elena Pasoli, Exhibition Manager of Bologna Children's Book Fair, "is doubly important for us and the children's book community. On the one hand, it underlines the very fruitful, long-standing links between Bologna and this extraordinary country; on the other, it signals the resumption of activities after the terrible lockdown period when all our initiatives were exclusively virtual".

Organised by BolognaFiere/Bologna Children's Book Fair, the Emilia-Romagna Region, Emilia-Romagna Region - European Culture, Einaudi Ragazzi, and Vivere all'Italiana MAECI), the Auckland edition of the exhibition will be staged by curator Nicoletta Benella with the Italian Embassy in New Zealand, Dante Alighieri Society Auckland, Festival Italiano, Auckland, Oratia Books, **NEWMARKET**.



The exhibition is part of the Artweek Auckland 2020 Programme and the Italian Festival Season in Auckland

**Details**

17-25 October 2020 – open every day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Entrance free.

Newmarket Station Studio, 1 Newmarket Station Square, Auckland

Part of the 2020 Artweek Auckland and Auckland's Italian Festival Season 2020.

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