



BOLOGNA ROUND THE WORLD: THE GRAND TOUR COMES TO SHARJAH 3 - 13th November 2021

Ahead of their 2022 edition, Bologna Children's Book Fair and BolognaBookPlus recently embarked on a tour of international book fairs, enabling face-to-face meetings once again with members of the professional community and building foundations for Sharjah, Guest of Honour, Bologna 2022

Launched with great energy and flair - and to great acclaim - at Frankfurt Book Fair in October, **the Grand Tour, Bologna is now celebrating its past, present and future at Sharjah International Book Fair**, the second stop of four international book fairs comprising its Grand Tour. Drawing on Bologna Children's Book Fair's great strengths in the worlds of illustration and design, new trends in children's and Young Adult Publishing as well as showcasing the diverse programme for general publishing developed by BolognaBookPlus, the Grand Tour offers a broad, inclusive and accessible programme. These activities will whet the appetites of publishing professionals across the world in advance of welcoming them to Bologna March 21st - 24th 2022.

The 'Bologna Grand Tour' is a project created in collaboration with **ITA Italian Trade Agency** and **MAECI, the Italian Ministry for International Affairs and International Cooperation**, enabling BCBF and BBPlus to showcase Italian publishing to the world.

Following the Frankfurt Book Fair, from 20 to 24 October, the Grand Tour stops at the Sharjah International Book Fair from 3 to 13 November, before continuing with the **Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara** (27 November - 5 December 2021) and the **Salon du livre et de la presse jeunesse de Montreuil** (1-6 December 2021).

In Sharjah, the Fair will have a 54 square metre stand, allowing it to showcase many of the developments BCBF has spearheaded over its recent past, including **BolognaBookPlus**, soft launched last June as a new offering for international general trade publishing. Located in the heart of BCBF, BolognaBookPlus comprises a variety of exhibiting options, alongside the return of its successful training and content programme.

Previewing the Fair, there will be a presentation of the **2022 editions of BCBF and BBPlus**, which will be held on **1 November at the Sharjah Book Authority**, in the presence of **Ahmed Al Ameri**, Chairman of the Sharjah Book Authority; **Elena Pasoli**, Director of Bologna Children's Book Fair and **Jacks Thomas**, Guest Director BolognaBookPlus.

BCBF Grand Tour presence at Sharjah International Book Fair will also include: **The Illustrators Survival Corner**, one of the most successful initiatives at the Bologna event - organised by Mimaster Illustrazione and in collaboration with BCBF - with workshops, portfolio reviews and "ask me anything" sessions with guests such as: **Maria Sole Macchia** (illustrator, Italy), **Irene Guerrieri** (children's designer, Italy), **Pino Sartorio** (illustrator, editorial graphic designer and art director, Italy), **Cathy Olmedillas** (founder/creative director of Studio Anorak, United Kingdom), **Paige Collins** (agent and creative producer, United Kingdom), **Giovanni Scarduelli** (illustrator, comic book artist and visual designer, Italy), **Masha Titova** (illustrator, multidisciplinary artist and educator, Russia).



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Masterclasses will be also held as part of the Survival Corner, among them: **“Children’s Book Design From The Frontier”**, on 5 November at 5 PM, with **Grazia Gotti** (co-founder of the Giannino Stoppioni children's bookshop and of the Accademia Drosselmeier, Italy), who will focus on the new perspectives on book design in children’s publishing; **“Shaping Ideas: Art Direction”** by **Pino Sartorio**, on 7 November at 5 PM; **“Representative Agencies For Illustrators, A Guideline”**, on 8 November at 7 PM, an insight on agents’ and artist agencies’ work with **Paige Collins**, who will discuss the different types of artist representative, the relations between agent and illustrator, the rights and duties of both parties and the different scenarios on the publishing market.

In addition to the meetings are the exhibitions:

Italian Excellence - Illustrators for Gianni Rodari

2020 marked one hundred years since the birth of Gianni Rodari, one of the most innovative and influential writers of the twentieth century, and Italy’s first author to win the prestigious Hans Christian Andersen Award, in 1970. **Italian Excellence - Illustrators for Gianni Rodari**, organized by **Bologna Children's Book Fair, Regione Emilia-Romagna and Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco, in collaboration with the Consolato Generale d’Italia** in 2020, and already presented with great success in over thirty countries around the world, brings now for the first time in Sharjah a selection of artworks by 21 illustrators who have illustrated Rodari’s books over the years. Artists who are recognised as mainstays of Italian design and illustration, such as Bruno Munari and Emanuele Luzzati, as well as great contemporary illustrators such as Beatrice Alemagna and Olimpia Zagnoli. The full list includes: **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 Valentinis, Elenia Beretta e Vittoria Facchini.**

At the same time, **there will be a books exhibition including the works from which the illustrations that make up *Italian Excellence*, as well as several foreign editions of Rodari and a focus on Arabic titles.**

The third edition of the exhibition format keeps on promoting the best Italian illustration in the world: **Italian Excellence. The new generation of children’s illustrators**, opened in digital form on the occasion of the 58th Bologna Children's Book Fair on the BCBF Galleries portal, presents the works of 20 young Italian illustrators chosen from among the most promising young artists in the sector, and will be exhibited in full in the Italian Pavilion at Dubai World Expo from 16 to 22 January 2022.

Jackets Off.: BolognaBookPlus - A selection

The book cover offers the reader the first impression for any title, capturing its spirit, identifying and positioning the book in a style or genre. The “Jackets Off” exhibition – created for general book publishing - looks at the creative journey from start to finish, showcasing book covers chosen from the very best worldwide, each accompanied by the illustrated ‘journey’ that led to its creation, from the initial sketches to the intermediate versions. Produced as part of BolognaBookPlus 2021 in collaboration with Mimaster Illustrazione, the graphic projects that make up **Jackets Off** were selected by five experts: **Steven Heller** (art director, critic, author, and editor, USA), **Cecilia Flegenheimer** (art director Mondadori, Italy), **Jon Gray** (graphic designer, UK), **Alice Beniero** (illustrator and art director, Italy), **Paul Buckley** (senior VP Executive Creative Director Penguin Random House, USA). Part of the exhibition will be on display in Sharjah and can be viewed in full online at BCBF Galleries, the virtual art museum of Bologna Children’s Book Fair.

Growing Young Readers - IBBY Italy 2021 Honour List

The main goal of IBBY International – the International Board on Books for Young people – is to promote the best national and international literature for children and make it accessible. Each year, IBBY’s



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eighty plus national sections are called upon to nominate their country's best authors and illustrators for the major international awards, together with a selection of the best publications for children, collected in their respective Honour Lists. This year, for the first time in Italy, this work has been made available to everyone, thanks to the publication of the **Italian Honour List: edited by Ibbv Italia - of which BolognaFiere is one of the founding members**. The selection aims to offer an opportunity to discover the quality output of Italy's excellent publishers and printers not only to members but, more generally, to all those – teachers, librarians, booksellers, parents and, last but not least, young readers – who want to find out about Italian publishing for children and young people. The IBBY Italia Honour List will be showcased to international publishers at the Sharjah Fair, in **an exhibition at the BCBF stand** that will display all 70 titles on the Honour List. This collection delivers an ideal library, highlighting both the very new and established writers, while promoting top-quality writing and illustration and spanning a wide variety of narrative forms. These include: picture books, short stories, novels, theatrical writing, poetry, non-fiction, and graphic novels. There will be a programme of guided tours, which can be booked on Eventbrite.

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