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**59<sup>th</sup> edition**

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**THE 59<sup>TH</sup> BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR - 21-24 MARCH 2022**

## **BOLOGNARAGAZZI AWARD**

### **2022 Winners and special mentions**

Major features of the 2022 edition were: Inter-generational caring relationships; debate around language and the quest for even better graphic design. A substantial increase in the number of entries provides an even broader overview of children's publishing around the world, the BOLOGNARAGAZZI awards received 2,215 titles from 62 countries and regions.

**2215 books from 62 countries and regions of the world were submitted** for the 2022 edition of the BolognaRagazzi Award - BRAW. An increase of **630 year-on-year** and **365 compared to 2020**, the last pre-Covid edition of the Award. These numbers confirm BCBF's scouting skills and its ability to seek out new publishers, new authors, illustrators and creative talent, reaching out to new areas and broadening its contacts around the world.

The number of countries and regions also increased: **20 new countries joined the previous 42**, providing an indication of how the difficulties caused by the pandemic have spurred the sector to become even more dynamic. New countries include Denmark, Hong Kong (with no fewer than five publishers), Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Peru, the Philippines, Romania, and **a whole new continent**, Africa, coming to Bologna for the first time with publishers from three countries: South Africa, Mozambique and Egypt.

Adjudicated by an independent international Jury, the Bologna Award comprises the traditional **Fiction, Non-Fiction, Opera Prima** (debut author) categories, but also **Comics**, and a special category, once again dedicated to **Poetry** – a tribute to the impressive array of children's poetry recently being produced by the publishing industry around the world. **Fiction** once again had the largest number of entries – **over 1,200** – but also Opera Prima saw a surge in entries: **over 150 titles**. Completing the round-up is BRAW's **New Horizons**, a special prize the Jury is free to award for strikingly innovative works.

As they have done every year for over fifty years, **BCBF's historic awards acknowledge the world's best recently published works for children and young adults** in terms of excellence of graphic design; innovative impact and ability to speak to young readers. Thanks to the prestige it has gained over the years, the BolognaRagazzi Award is not only closely followed by sector professionals, but also offers unique international business and copyright trading opportunities. Once again, the Award has signposted trending themes and future developments.

Within the even wider selection of titles, 2022 submissions witnessed new and eclectic trends emerging, with the Covid-19 pandemic as an underlying theme running throughout. These themes, including children as both individuals and groups, notably often in outdoor settings, prompted reflection around inter-generational caring relationships, death, suffering and sadness, as well as our link with the past and our consequent responsibility towards the environment.

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Language was a major focus of Non-Fiction. The excellence of graphic design and illustrations used to convey the essence of language reached new heights. Many examples from different cultures explored language through anagrams, palindromes and plays on meaning. Similar trends were seen in the various literary genres. Comic book production, already a rising phenomenon in recent years, continues to grow and was seen to be increasingly aimed at young readers. Stylistic horizons are being pushed back to combine two different traditions: the comic and the picturebook. The trend is often led by publishers new to comic book production eager to experiment with freer styles and narrative approaches. Poetry too, reconfirmed its rising importance as a genre. BRAW's special category award also in 2021, Poetry received even more entries this year, including submissions from new countries like Iceland. Entirely new poetry series have been created targeting new readers and offering works from different languages.

The International Juries, made up as always of international experts from the sector, met up in Bologna for a two-day full-immersion session. Laid out on long tables and divided into various sections, the books were perused, read, discussed and assessed. This year's jurors were:

For the Fiction, Non-Fiction, Debut Work and New Horizons Award categories: **Olivia Ahmad**, British curator and editor, graphic arts and design specialist and artistic director at London's House of Illustration (UK); **Antonio Alessandro Di Cicco**, graphic designer, co-founder of *hund*, a graphic and digital design team (Italy); **Magalí Homs Ros**, designer specialized in ephemeral and audio-visual architecture, director of Tantagora, a training centre and creative space producing, disseminating and promoting literature (Spain); **Yuliia Kozlovets**, general coordinator of the International Book Arsenal Festival in Kiev (Ukraine); **Alessandra Starace**, manager of the historic Libreria delle Ragazze e dei Ragazzi in Milan and Brescia (Italy).

Winners, special mentions and jurors are guests of Bologna Children's Book Fair during the **prize-giving ceremony** that is held on day one, **21 March**. On the BCBF programme, there also are special focuses on the winning books, featuring illustrators, publishers and jurors.

For the Comics category: **Sonia Déchamps**, co-artistic director of the International Comics Festival of Angoulême (France); **Paul Gravett**, co-founder of *Escape* magazine and the *Comica* Festival, a London-based writer, editor, critic and lecturer specializing in international comics (UK); **David Schilter**, co-founder of *kuš!*, a comic book publisher based in Riga (Latvia); **Alberto Sebastiani**, researcher, publicist and lecturer at the University of Bologna and IULM, writer for *La Repubblica* and *Treccani.it* on linguistics, literature and comics (Italy).

For the Poetry category: **Chiara Basile**, founder of the bookshop *Lèggere Leggère* and organizer of the Junior Poetry Festival (Italy); **Denis Beznosov**, poet, literary critic, translator and deputy director of the Russian State Children's Library (Russia); **Mateja Bizjak-Petit**, poet, translator and director, since 2011 head of the Centre de Créations pour l'Enfance - House of Poetry (France); **Caterina Ramonda**, author, translator, expert in paper and digital publishing for children

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(Italy); **Morag Styles**, former professor of children's poetry at Cambridge University, and Emeritus Fellow of Homerton College (United Kingdom).

### **THE AMAZING BRAW BOOKSHELF EXHIBITION**

For the first time, alongside the customary exhibition of the winners and special mentions, Bologna Children's Book Fair will also dedicate a display of the works that came close to being selected for the BolognaRagazzi Award. The Exhibition will put the spotlight on the many deserving candidates from all over the world: 100 titles selected from the finalists in the various categories (Fiction, Non-Fiction, Opera Prima, Comics, Poetry). The books on display can be handled, browsed, and read by the professional public at the Fair. It is an unprecedented opportunity to take a deeper look into the prestigious award and get a fascinating overview of the best in recent publishing around the world.

Here are the winners and special mentions:

### **FICTION**

#### **WINNER**

#### **À qui appartiennent les nuages?**

Text by Mario Brassard

Illustrations by Gérard DuBois

Les Éditions de la Pastèque, Canada, 2021

#### **SPECIAL MENTIONS**

#### **¿Qué tiene un bosque?**

Text and illustrations by Yael Frankel

Claraboya Ediciones, Chile, 2021

#### **Summer**

Text and illustrations by Suzy Lee

BIR Publishing Co., Ltd., South Korea, 2021

#### **Fechamos**

Text by Gilles Baum

Illustrations by Régis Lejonc

Les Éditions des Éléphants, France, 2020

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### **NON-FICTION**

#### **WINNER**

##### **Monstres Sacrés: Voyage au cœur des volcans**

Text by Julie Roberge

Illustrations by Aless MC

Les Éditions de la Pastèque, Canada, 2021

#### **SPECIAL MENTIONS**

##### **Para que serve?**

Text by José Maria Vieira Mendes

Illustrations by Madalena Matoso

Planeta Tangerina, Portugal, 2020

##### **Des trucs comme ci, des trucs comme ça**

Text and illustrations by Bernadette Gervais

Éditions des Grandes Personnes, France, 2021

##### **Father's big hands**

Text and illustrations by Choi Deok-Kyu

YUN Edition, South Korea, 2020

### **OPERA PRIMA**

#### **WINNER**

##### **Les Reflets d'Hariett**

Text and illustrations by Marion Kadi

L'Agrume, France, 2021

#### **SPECIAL MENTIONS**

##### **Det var en gång och blir så mycket mer**

Text and illustrations by Johanna Schaible

Piratförlaget, Sweden, 2021

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### **Fluidoteca**

Text and illustrations by Berta Páramo  
Litera libros, Spain, 2021

### **COMICS**

#### **EARLY READER - WINNER**

##### **Bienvenue à Bibiville**

Text and art by Éponine Cottey  
Éditions 2024, France, 2021

#### **EARLY READER - SPECIAL MENTION**

##### **Hvem rumpet brunosten?**

Text by Erlend Loe  
Art by Kim Hiorthøy  
Cappelen Damm, Norway, 2021

#### **MIDDLE GRADE - WINNER**

##### **Teatro di natura**

Text and art by Michelangelo Setola  
Canicola Associazione culturale, Italy, 2021

#### **MIDDLE GRADE - SPECIAL MENTION**

##### **Nowhere girl**

Text and art by Magali Le Huche  
Dargaud, France, 2021

#### **YOUNG ADULT - WINNER**

##### **Polly**

Text by Fabrice Melquiot  
Art by Isabelle Pralong

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Éditions La Joie de lire, Switzerland, 2021

### **YOUNG ADULT - SPECIAL MENTION**

#### **Le grand vide**

Text and art by Léa Murawiec  
Éditions 2024, France, 2021

### **POETRY**

#### **WINNER**

##### **Immenses sont leurs ailes**

Text by Murielle Szac  
Illustrations by Nathalie Novi  
Éditions Bruno Doucey, France, 2021

### **SPECIAL MENTIONS**

#### **Corazón de pájaro**

Text by Mar Benegas  
Illustrations by Rachel Caiano  
AKIARA books, Spain, 2020

#### **Sagan um Skarphéðin Dungal sem setti fram nýjar kenningar um eðli alheimsins**

Text by Hjörleifur Hjartarson  
Illustrations by Rán Flygenring  
Angústúra, Iceland, 2018

#### **Vom Flaniern und Weltpaziern**

Texts by Elisabeth Steinkellner  
Illustrations by Michael Roher  
Tyrolia-Verlag, Austria, 2018

**Collection "Les Poèmes":** Ici ou là et ailleurs aussi; Bois profonds; Pierre d'un jour; Poèmes en peluches; Macadam, courir les rues; Poèmes par-dessus les toits; Thoulathiyat, haikus arabes; Terrains vagues; BUS 83; Les chaises Vv.Aa (Mo Abbas, Gaëlle Allart, Edith Azam, Ramona Bădescu, Gabriella Corcione, Gaëtan Dorémus, Odile Fix, Jérémie Fischer, Raphaële Frier, Bernard Friot, Benoît Guillaume, Géraldine Hérédia, Amélie Jackowski, Julien Martinière, Pierre Soletti, Clothilde Staës, Walid Taher, Christian Tortel)

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Le port a jauni, France, 2018–2021

### NEW HORIZONS

**Laines bērni**

Text by Luīze Pastore

Illustrations by Evija Pintāne

Liels un mazs, Latvia, 2021

Please find at the following link what the jury said about winners and special mentions:

<https://www.bolognachildrenbookfair.com/en/awards/bolognaragazzi-award/bolognaragazzi-award-all-the-2022-winners/10903.html>

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