



THE 60TH BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR

Still rocking at 60!

THE MAIN THEMES AT THE 2023 EDITION

Censorship, artificial intelligence, the changed face of Ukrainian illustration, the tributes to the big names in the history of children's publishing and illustration, International Women's Day, the African book market and the comics sector

A stage where professionals from every reality and context around the world meet annually to take stock of global publishing, discuss different ideas, realities and experiences, this year the Bologna Children's Book Fair will host conferences on some of the major themes at the heart of the debate on the future and present of the sector.

THE BIG DEBATES, BETWEEN PRESENT AND FUTURE

Censorship in children's books will be the topic of two panels: **"Censorship of Books: what is the state of children's book banning around the world and what is being done?"** (7 March, 10.30 a.m., Sala Bolero) chaired by **Barbara Marcus** (President and Publisher Random House Children's Books, USA), with the participation of **David Levithan** (author, USA), **Doris Breitmoser** (Managing Editor of the Association for Children's Literature/Arbeitskreis für Jugendliteratur, Germany), **Jon Anderson** (President and Publisher of Simon and Schuster Children's Publishing and Board Member of the National Coalition Against Censorship, USA), **Machiko Wakatsuki** (President and Chief Editor of Bronze Publishing, Japan), **Giorgia Grilli**, (Professor of Children's Literature at the University of Bologna and co-founder of the Centre for Research in Children's Literature at the Department of Educational Sciences, University of Bologna, Italy) and **Dora Batalim** (Pedagogical Coordinator and lecturer on the Postgraduate Course in Children's Books at the Università Cattolica in Lisbon and lecturer at the Maria Ulrich School for Childhood Educators, Portugal).

And **"Sense and Sensitivity - Should publishers edit the work of authors who are deceased, creators of popular classics or not change and leave as pieces representative of their original era – with or without appropriate warnings?"** (7 March, 4.30 p.m., Sala Bolero): literary experts debate the global challenge of how to make the past and its literature palatable. Speakers are: Pierdomenico Baccalario (author, Italy), Simona Mambrini (translator, Italy), Beverly Horowitz (Senior Vice-President & Publisher Delacorte Press / Random House Children's Books, USA), Maria Grazia Mazzitelli (Editorial Director Salani, Italy).

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The role of **artificial intelligence** in the future of publishing and illustration, from new tools for graphic design and writing to the role of authors and artists. The Illustrators Survival Corner is hosting **"The State of AI - Friend or Foe?"** (6 March, 1.00 p.m., The Illustrators Survival Corner), a masterclass with **Julien Palier** (Co-founder Daysk, France/Spain) on the threats and opportunities of AI, and **"Authors vs. Artificial Intelligence"** (7 March, 10.00 a.m., The Illustrators Survival Corner), organized by Autori di Immagini: in the US, several artists have taken AI companies to court, accusing them of using millions of copyrighted images to train their AI models. What will happen in Europe?



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BolognaBookPlus will include the event **“How Artificial Intelligence Technology can change the publishing industry” (6 March, 4.00 p.m., BBPlus Theatre)** with **Jaesung Jung** (I-Scream Arts, South Korea): AI can promote the accessibility of books by transforming sentences into images, thereby giving any talented storyteller the opportunity to become an author and publisher at the same time. A new era full of new opportunities is dawning. **“Artificial Intelligence-created Art vs. Natural Human Art and its Impacts on Creators and the Publishing Industry” (8 March, 12 p.m., BBPlus Theatre)** with **Nurgül Şenefer** (Illustrators Platform, Turkey), will seek answers to the question of whether AI will be the death of art, or just an evolution of it, with a reflection on new opportunities for illustrators, and an analysis of copyright laws. Finally, **“How Artificial Intelligence can make publishers more competitive and lead to higher quality and New Media Productions. The Management of massive resources and a personalisation of readers’ experiences” (8 March, 5 p.m., BBPlus Theatre)** with **Adele Magnelli** (International Project Manager, ETT, Italy), **Sam Habibi Minelli** (Business Manager, GruppoMeta, Italy).

PROMOTING READING AND PUBLISHING IN DISADVANTAGED AREAS

The Bologna Children’s Book Fair’s commitment to supporting the promotion of reading in the most disadvantaged areas of the world continues with the space dedicated to telling the stories of innovative contributions from projects and initiatives in different and distant contexts, all united by a common commitment to building the community of tomorrow’s readers.

BCBF, in collaboration with Instituto Emilia, is therefore promoting **“Transatlantic Connections: Literature Childhood and Youth” (7 March, 11.30 a.m., Sala Suite)**, a round table that aims to initiate a dialogue between African publishing production and that of North and Latin America, in order to better understand the position in these markets and among readers of literature aimed at the Afro-descendant communities. Discussing the topic will be: **Anel Perez** (Director of Literature and Reading Promotion in the Coordination of Cultural Diffusion of UNAM, Mexico), **Bel Santos Mayer** (Project Coordinator at the Queiroz Filho Brazilian Institute of Studies and Community Support - IBEAC, and manager of the LiteraSampa Reading Network, Brazil), **Vélia Vidal** (Director of Corporación Educativa y Cultural Motete, Colombia), **William Adjete Wilson** (illustrator, Togo/France), moderated by **Dolores Prades** (Director of Instituto Emilia, Brazil).

This will be followed by the round table **“Born to Read: Childhood and Readings on the Borders” (8 March, 11.00 a.m., Sala Bolero)** that will present some successful projects that are promoting reading in different areas of the world: from the experience of the *Nati per leggere* (Born to Read) Project activated in the São Paulo suburb of Parelheiros (Brazil), to those conducted among the communities on the fringes of Cape Town and those promoted by the Croatian Ministry of Culture. Chaired by **Dolores Prades** (Director of Instituto Emilia, Brazil), the speakers at the meeting will be: **Giorgio Tamburlini** (Managing director of the Centro per la salute del bambino, Italy), **Bel Santos Mayer** (Project coordinator at the Queiroz Filho Brazilian Institute of Studies and Community Support - IBEAC, and manager of the LiteraSampa Reading Network, Brazil), **Lynne Murray** (Co-director of the charity The Mikhulu Trust, UK) and **Marija Radonic** (Paediatrician, Croatia).

Finally, the third **IBBY European Regional Conference: “Finding a safe home in books” (9 March, 9.00 a.m., Sala Notturmo)**, during which **Fabio Geda** (author, Italy), **Andriy Lesiv** and **Romana Romanyshin** (authors, designers and illustrators, Ukraine), **Margaret Anne Suggs** (illustrator, Ireland), **Winny Ang** (child psychiatrist, Belgium) and **Edward van de Vendel** (author for children and young people, Netherlands), will be joined by other guests to talk about the power of



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stories in providing hope and offering refuge and safety at any time and in any place, with the aim of sending out a signal of hope in difficult times by emphasising the right of every child to become a reader.

AFRICA

Two meetings will offer a valuable focus on African publishing as part of the **Spotlight on Africa** project: **“Readers of the Future” (7 March, 4.30 p.m., Authors Café)**, will provide analysis and a look at the future prospects and possibilities concerning the publishing market of a continent that, in the next 50 years, will become home to some of the world’s most populous countries, featuring: **Lawrence Njagi** (Chairman of the African Publishers Network, Kenya), **Anges Félix N'Dakpri** (Publisher & Director of Abidjan International Book Fair, GAD Editions, Ivory Coast), **Asare Konadu Yamoah** (CEO & President of Ghana Publishers Association, Adaex Educational Publications Ltd., Ghana), **Julia Claire Norrish** (Executive Director of Book Dash, South Africa). Also scheduled to take place is **“Book Dash: making books in 12 hours at BCBF 2023!” (March 8, 3.30 p.m., Authors Café)** the presentation of the results of **Book Dash**, the event that will engage 6 African creative minds, including authors, illustrators and designers present at the fair, in the 12-hour production of a book from scratch, from the conceptual stages to publication. An opportunity for the fair’s professional audience to take an insider look at the entire process that leads to the birth of a title.

COMICS

From the success of **Webtoons (“The webtoon phenomenon” 6 March, 11.30 a.m., Authors Café)**, which are expanding well beyond the borders of the Asian continent alone, with numbers unthinkable for traditional publishing to the extent that they are now the new frontier of comics, to **manga (“Manga: A New Wave”, 6 March, 12.30 p.m., Authors Café)** as a recent global publishing phenomenon also on a commercial level, passing through the opportunities offered by **comics for the YA segment (“Young Adult Comics: A New Opportunity”, 7 March, 1.30 p.m., Authors Café)** and **comic magazines for children (“Comics Magazines for Children”, 8 March, 2.30 p.m. Authors Café)**, useful tools for helping children approach reading and learning. Publishers from all over the world will discuss their respective experiences, while meetings continue at BCBF to explore the particularities and potential of one of the segments of the publishing market that has grown the most in recent years. Participants will include: **Lara Allen** (Wattpad WEBTOON Studios, USA); **Kuo-Yu Liang** (Ku Worldwide, USA); **Serge Ewencyk** (Éditions ça et là, France); **Marie-France Lombardo** (Edition Moderne, Germany); **Kevin R. Harmic** (VIZ Media, USA); **Julie Staebler**, (Biscoto Éditions, France); **Ferdinand Lutz** (POLLE-Péridot, Germany). There will also be two events in collaboration with **Lucca Comics & Games**: the presentation of the 2023 announcement of the Lucca Junior Competition - **Livio Sossi Award for Editorial Illustration (9 March, 11.00 a.m., Illustrators Café)**, with the aim of creating of an illustrated book based on an as yet unpublished text by Angelo Mozzillo, and the panel **“Comics-related professions: how to present a portfolio” (9 March, 12.00 p.m., Illustrators Café)**, organised by Lucca Comics & Games and the Comics & Graphic Novels Commission of the AIE, as part of Aldus Up network.

UKRAINE

Throughout 2022, the Bologna Children’s Book Fair continued its concrete support for the Ukrainian book community. It is, in fact, thanks to the synergic commitment between BCBF, the International Book Arsenal Festival and the Ukrainian Book Institute that the books of Ukrainian publishers have reached the tables of the BolognaRagazzi Award





2023, and it is thanks to this same collaboration – together with the Pictoric Illustrators Club – that the fair will host the illustration exhibition **Ukraine Illustrated**. Acting as a necessary counterbalance to the exhibition and giving voice to the silent – yet so eloquent – images on display is the panel **“Experiencing the War”** (8 March, 2.00 p.m., **The Illustrators Survival Corner**), during which **Oleg Gryshchenko** (artist and co-founder of Pictoric Illustrators Club), **Anna Sarvira** (illustrator, curator and co-founder of Pictoric Illustrators Club), the duo **Romana Romanyshyn** and **Andriy Lesiv** (Art Studio "Agrafka"), chaired by **Yuliia Kozlovets** (director of the International Book Arsenal Festival) will seek answers to many current questions. What is it like to live in a state of war? What is it like to be Ukrainian today? How do you find inspiration? How do you manage to continue working? How has your role changed? How can a work of art even become a weapon? The power of art as a means of communication and testimony, of protest and sharing stories, emotions and experiences with the whole world has never been in doubt, and now Ukrainian illustration has become a powerful means of spreading the truth. Also in the programme is the panel **“Children’s books from Ukraine: working during Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine”** (8 March, 3.30 p.m., **Sala Suite**), featuring **Yulia Kozlovets** (Director of the International Book Arsenal Festival), **Romana Romanyshyn** and **Andriy Lesiv** (Art Studio “Agrafka”), **Mariana Savka** (writer and editor-in-chief of the The Old Lion Publishing House, Ukraine), **Olena Odynoka** (Deputy Director for International Cooperation at Ukrainian Book Institute, Ukraine) and **Tetiana Stus** (editor-in-chief of the Junior Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Ukraine): back in Bologna, they are telling what it has been like, for Ukrainian publishers and illustrators, to live the past 12 months, and whether they have managed to create new books and stories for children. Initiatives also include **Tales of EUkraine (TEUK)**, the programme by the Federation of European Publishers (FEP) and the Ukrainian Book Institute (UBI), in coordination with a partnership of six national associations of publishers in Europe including the Italian Publishers’ Association (AIE), **which will be launched during the days of BCBF** at a meeting (**“Tales of EUkraine: Sharing Stories”**, 6 March, 3.00 p.m., **BBPlus Theatre**) organised with the support of Bologna Children’s Book Fair and BolognaBookPlus. Financed by the European Union’s Creative Europe programme, TEUK is a project that aims to print bilingual editions of Ukrainian books for children and young adults and distribute them to displaced Ukrainian youngsters now living in various European countries, with a catalogue that will contain over 100 titles ranging from fairy tales to non-fiction. This catalogue will be available online for purchase in various European countries as of 6 March: interested publishers, with the support of their national associations, will be able to acquire the rights and publish the books, a number of which will be purchased by the associations thanks to the support of Creative Europe funds and distributed in migrant reception centres and other meeting points by a network of NGOs, public institutions and other organisations.

HONOURING THE GREAT NAMES OF CHILDREN’S BOOKS

A sixty-year history deserves a special reflection on the great personalities who have lit up and still light the universe of children’s books, accompanying BCBF on its long adventure. The 2023 edition of BCBF has therefore lined up several meetings dedicated to important names in the history of the Fair and publishing, starting with one on Italo Calvino, **“Illustration for Italo Calvino. Published and unpublished masterpieces for young readers' books”** (8 March, 5.15 p.m., **Illustrators Café**), taking part will be **Alessandro Sanna** (illustrator, Italy), **Rotraut Susanne Berner** (illustrator, Germany), **Vera Gereke** (illustrator, Germany) and **Sara Colaone** (illustrator, Italy), while there will also be tributes to, among others, **Pierre Marchand**, **Tomi Ungerer**, **Sven Nordqvist**, **Beatrice Alemagna** (who was awarded **The extraordinary award for an extraordinary artist** at the 2022 edition of BCBF), **Květa Pacovská** and **Rebecca Dautremer**. These will be





accompanied by “Once upon a time...The secret story of fairy tales” (7 March, 5.00 p.m., Illustrators Café) with **Nicholas Jubber** (author, UK) the history of fairy tales in children’s publishing.

8 MARCH, INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

For many years BCBF has been dedicating significant space to the role of women in children’s literature. Thanks to the happy coincidence that sees the dates of the 60th edition include International Women’s Day on 8 March, this year the Bologna Children’s Book Fair is proposing a rich programme in collaboration with **PublisHer - Women in Publishing**, the movement to bring gender equality to world publishing founded by the publisher **Bodour Al Qasimi** (Kalimat Publishing, former president of IPA International Publishers Association). The large PublisHer area in exhibition hall 29 will host the exhibition **Women donne femmes frauen 女性 mujeres wanawake نساء ...**, curated by Cooperativa Stoppani/Accademia Drosselmeier: 100 publishing gems from all over the world, dedicated to great women in the fields of art, science, sport, music, fashion, writing and the promotion of reading. Numerous meetings are scheduled, including networking coffees and the International Women’s Day breakfast – with a presentation of the women’s exhibition – as well as sessions that will explore opportunities and forms of inclusiveness in publishing and career opportunities and strategies in the governance of global institutions. Lastly, the brand new **Book Lovers’ Bistrot** curated by Libreria Stoppani will also offer special meetings, including tributes to Vanna Cercenà and Eva Mameli Calvino, meetings with Emilia Lodigiani and Susanna Mattiangeli (Italian Children’s Laureate 2022-2024), as well as book signings with the most eagerly awaited authors and illustrators at the fair in the **International Bookshop**.

TRANSLATORS

The Translators’ Centre turns 20, and it is a myriad of meetings, workshops and conferences with professional translators, publishers, scholars and specialists to celebrate this time devoted to the magical art of translating children’s books, its peculiarities, challenges and tricks. The rich programme of the Translators Café features: “**Reinventing Calvino: a talk with his translators**” (6 March, 12.00 p.m.), a carousel with the translators who made Calvino’s books travel in other words and in other worlds, with Osca Boşca-Mălin (translator, deputy director at Accademia di Romania in Roma, Romania), Toma Gudelyte (translator, Lithuania), Martin Rueff (translator, France), Neva Micheva (translator, Bulgaria), Julijana Vučo (translator, Serbia), Gašper Malej (translator, Slovenia), Burkhard Kroeber (translator, Germany). **The collaboration between BCBF and Ceatl** (the European Council of Literary Translators’ Associations created in 1993 as a platform where 36 literary translators’ associations from 29 countries across Europe can exchange views and information, and join forces to improve the status and working conditions of literary translators in Europe) is consolidated with the international conference: “**Translating Children’s Literature: Juggling Between Boundaries**” (7 March, 2.30 p.m.), with Marta Morros (APTIC, FIT, Spain), Francesca Novajra (AITI, CEATL, Italy), Flavio Rosati (AI, Associazione autori di immagini, Italy), Manuela Salvi (ICWA, Italy), Eva Valvo (STRADE, CEATL, Italy), moderati da Lara Hölbling Matković (DHKP, CEATL, Croatia). And the opportunity is renewed to expand the **World Directory of Children’s book Translators** - a database listing professional translators specializing in children’s literature, launched in partnership with UNESCO’s Index Translationum the Directory, tha also has ample listings of the so-called minority languages, with 55 languages currently represented - to children’s book translators from all over the world.





CHILDREN'S LAUREATES

In recent years, many countries have been following UK's example by setting up the "Children's Laureate" figure, and Italy among these. The role - promoted by Accademia Drosselmeier and Alir, in collaboration with Bologna Children's Book Fair, Ibby Italia and Cepell - not only is a great honour, but is also a commitment for the chosen one to spread the value of children's literature and publishing. Following Alessandro Sanna, Italian Children's Laureate 2020/2022, it is now time for **Susanna Mattiangeli**, writer and translator, to be ambassador for the best children's literature during the next two years. She will be promoting and highlighting the importance of reading and of good books, by attending events both in Italy and abroad. On **8 March, at the Book Lovers' Bistrot**, the first meetings are to be announced. The author is also attending the meeting "**Children's Laureates in conversation**", on **7 March at 3.00 p.m. at the Illustrators Café**, together with: Áine Ní Ghlinn (Laureate na nÓg, Ireland), Joseph Coehlo (Waterstone's Children's Laureate, UK), Casi Wyn (Bardd Plant Cymru, Wales), Gabrielle Wang (Children's Laureate, Australia), Tialda Hoogeveen (Berneboeke ambassadeur Fryslân, Friesland), Nioosha Shams (Sveriges läsambassadör, Sweden), moderati da Julia Eccleshare (Hay Festival, UK).

THE CHINESE MARKET

Chinese operators and exhibitors are once again expected in the exhibition halls of BCBF 2023. China is finally opening up again and the eagerly awaited event "**2022 China Children's Book Market Data Release and Trend Analysis of New Channels**" (**6 March, 2.00 p.m., Sala Bolero**), organised by BCBF with the magazine *China Publishers*, will feature at the fair. The meeting, ahead of the tenth edition of the **China Shanghai International Children's Book Fair (17-19 November 2023)**, presents a comprehensive analysis of the performance of the children's publishing market in China in 2022, and will share the experiences of some of the most active players in the publishing trade between China and the rest of the world. Also not to be missed, **The Golden Pinwheel Exhibition** (Hall 26, stand B145), organized by China Shanghai Children's Book Fair in partnership with Bologna Children's Book Fair. The Golden Pinwheel Young Illustrators Competition is an international illustration contest held annually as part of CCBF, with the support of the Shanghai Press and Publication Administration. Since its creation in 2015, the competition has been providing a venue for emerging illustrators to showcase their talent. It aims to build bridges between them and children's publishers, both locally and globally.

