



**Bologna**  
*Where Your Taste  
for Books is Indulged*



## BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR

### 57<sup>th</sup> ILLUSTRATORS EXHIBITION: THE 2023 WINNERS

This year's competition to be part of the Exhibition showcasing world illustration trends received the highest number of candidates ever: 4345 illustrators from 91 countries and regions

### The 60<sup>th</sup> Bologna Children's Book Fair - 6 to 9 March

2023 will mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bologna Children's Book Fair (BCBF) and the 57<sup>th</sup> edition of the Illustrators Exhibition, one of the fair's most successful and longest-running events. Developed in 1967 to seek out and showcase the latest illustration trends and emerging talents around the world, the Exhibition has told the story of the evolution of children's books over the decades: from the traditional illustrated narrative through to the predominantly visual picture book and, more recently, the success of silent books.

The work of young talent and well-known illustrators selected will once again be on show from 6 to 9 March during BCBF, held concurrently with the two initiatives that complete the offer of the fair: the second, highly awaited edition of BolognaBookPlus - the general trade publishing event developed by BolognaFiere in partnership with the Italian Publishers' Association (AIE) - and the Bologna Licensing Trade Fair/ Kids, that brings right at the heart of the fair a variety of professionals from all over the world dealing with licensing and entertainment.

Some **4345** illustrators entered their work for the **2023 Illustrators Exhibition**, a record number of submissions - even more than the exceptional 2022 edition - with **21,725 illustrations entered from 91 countries and regions of the world**. This year jury, after meeting online to discuss the shortlist of 315 finalists (who will enjoy a great visibility opportunity, their work being published on BCBF's website and social network channels), eventually gathered in Bologna at the beginning of January, where they made the final selection of **79 sets of illustrations** - the work of **80 artists from 28 countries and regions of the world**. Publishing professionals from all over the world will have the opportunity of viewing the originals in the annual Exhibition that is central to the book fair. Once again, the Fair will be a springboard for emerging artists, while at the same time offering further professional opportunities for established artists.

Comprising international experts in various fields of illustration and publishing for children and young people, the jury changes every year. This year's jury was: **Gusti** (Gustavo Rosemfett, teacher, illustrator and author, winner of the BolognaRagazzi Award 2016 in the special category dedicated to disability for the book *Mallko and dad*, Argentina/Spain), **Christine Morault** (founder of Éditions MeMo, France), **Sidney Smith** (author and illustrator, winner of four consecutive New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Books Awards and two Kate Greenaway Awards, Canada), **Eric Telfort** (illustrator, artist and teacher of digital illustration and Character Design at Rhode Island School of Design, USA), and **Erik Titusson** (former director of the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, founder of Lilla Piratförlaget, an independent publisher of quality children's literature, Sweden). Representing a broad range of professional expertise and approaches, the group compared views and discussed before arriving at its selection that while picking up on what's new in illustration - from narrative technique to image quality - offers a broad overview of illustration in the world.

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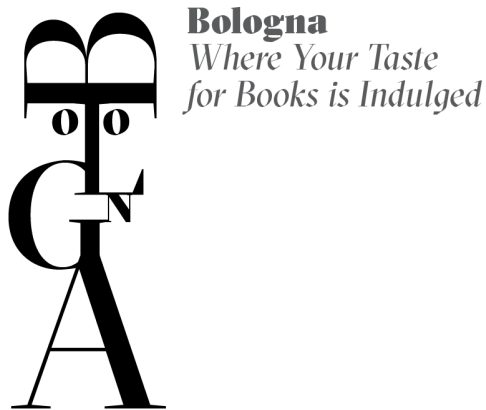
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The five jurors will be talking about how they went about their selection, answering questions from the public at the meeting entitled "Meet the Jury!", to be held during the 4-day book fair. They will also be on hand to answer questions from the finalists during the "Ask the juror!" portfolio review session.

The Exhibition can also be seen on the **BCBF Galleries** portal on the Book Fair's website. In this way, the illustrations can be enjoyed by a wider, more general audience in addition to the professionals visiting the Book Fair.

At the close of BCBF, the Exhibition will set off on a two-year international tour that will take it to cultural venues in several world capitals and major cities, taking the best in illustration and BCBF to an even wider public. It is a long-established tradition that the first country visited is Japan. The Exhibition will be at the Itabashi Art Museum, in Tokyo, from 24 June to 13 August, followed by the Nishinomya City Otani Memorial Art Museum, from 19 August to 9 October, and finally, the Ishikawa Nanao Art Museum, from 10 November to 17 December. After that, it continues to China.

The **Illustrators Annual**, the Exhibition catalogue - published by Corraini in Italian and English, by JBBY - Japanese Board on Books for Young People in Japan, by CCOC in Korea, and by Dandelion Picture Book House in China - is available at specialist international bookstores. As well as reproductions of the illustrations, the catalogue also includes original articles by the jurors. The cover is illustrated on alternate years by either the winner of the H.C. Andersen Award or the winner of the Grand Prix BIB - Biennial of Illustration Bratislava. This year, it's the turn of **Suzy Lee, winner of the H.C. Andersen Award 2022, who will also have a personal exhibition at the centre of the Fair.**

The Illustrators Exhibition offers unique visibility and professional opportunities to young illustrators. On selection, all illustrators under 35 automatically become candidates for the **Bologna Children's Book Fair - Fundación SM International Illustration Award**, consisting of a year's scholarship worth €15,000 during which the winner creates and publishes a picture book, whose illustrations are then exhibited in a personal show at the subsequent edition of BCBF. The winner of the 2022 Award, Andrés Lòpez, from Mexico, will be showing his solo exhibition at the 2023 Book Fair.

In addition, every year the Ars in Fabula - School of Illustration makes available the **ARS IN FABULA - Grant Award** to an unpublished illustrator under 30 among those selected for the Illustrators Exhibition. The Grant offers the opportunity to attend the ARS IN FABULA - Masters in Illustration for Publishing, working on a book project assigned by one of the Master's partner publishers. The Grant Award, **which celebrated 10 years of activity last year**, will be the subject of an exhibition in 2023 – staged at the Fair - presenting the work of the 10 winners of the past editions.

Link to details of the jurors: <https://www.bolognachildrensbookfair.com/en/focus-on/illustrators/the-illustrators-exhibition/jury-2023-illustrators-exhibition/5934.html>

Click on this link for a selection of the winning illustrations for the 2023 Exhibition:

<https://www.bolognachildrensbookfair.com/en/focus-on/illustrators/the-illustrators-exhibition/2023-winning-illustrators/10631.html>

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Bologna Children's Book Fair Press Office





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**\* About Bologna**

Three global book events for international rights and licensing trading takes place annually in the eponymous Italian city where culture meets style and commercial relationships are created.

**\* Bologna Children's Book Fair (BCBF)**

Bologna Children's Book Fair is the world's leading fair of children's publishing and content, attracting 1,500 exhibitors and about 30,000 trade visitors from around 100 countries. BCBF celebrates its 60th edition in 2023. Every year Bologna plays host to a truly unique gathering of publishers, agents, developers, illustrators, authors, booksellers, librarians and allied professionals but also multimedia and children's content licensing specialists.

**\* BolognaBookPlus (BBPlus)**

Launched in 2020 by BCBF/BolognaFiere, in partnership with the Italian Publishers' Association (AIE), BolognaBookPlus caters for a general trade publishing audience. Occupying a distinct exhibition area, its wide-ranging programme includes training courses and conferences.

BolognaBookPlus Guest Director Jacks Thomas and her UK team work closely with the Bologna team.

**\* Bologna Licensing Trade Fair/Kids (BLTF/Kids)**

An integral part of Bologna Children's Book Fair, located at the centre of the Fair, BLTF/Kids hosts major international licensing and entertainment operators presenting over 600 brands. Facilities available include a Licensing Retail Lounge, a Fashion Product Showcase, and area where licensees can present their retail projects.

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