



**BOLOGNA
CHILDREN'S
BOOK
FAIR**



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THE 62ND BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR

Bologna Children's Book Fair – Fundación SM International Award for Illustration: the 2025 winner

Bologna Children's Book Fair and Fundación SM, both active in the field of education and the promotion of children's books, set up the **Bologna Children's Book Fair – Fundación SM International Award for Illustration** in 2009 with the aim of unearthing, nurturing and supporting new talents in illustration.

Open to artists aged under 35 whose work has been selected for the Illustrators Exhibition, the prize for the winner is a cheque for 15 thousand euros which is intended to provide the winning illustrator with the peace of mind to create, over the course of one year, an illustrated book that will be published and launched on the global market by the Spanish publisher SM. The original illustrations will then be presented at a solo exhibition at the following year's edition of the Bologna Children's Book Fair.

The 2025 winner was announced on Wednesday 2 April 2025 during the 62nd edition of the Bologna Children's Book Fair.

The Jury, comprising **Mario Dequel Losa** (art director in the education department of Ediciones SM, Spain), **Joëlle Jolivet** (Author and Illustrator, whose books are published worldwide, France), **Kiyoko Matsuoka** (Director of the Itabashi Art Museum, Japan) awarded **the 15th Bologna Children's Book Fair – Fundación SM International Award for Illustration** to the Ukrainian illustrator **Maria Haiduk, the youngest winner to date.**

The Jury said: *Despite her youth, Maria Haiduk demonstrates a mature and distinctive style, marked by a clear and evocative approach and the use of light as a key narrative tool. Her work offers a poignant social critique and displays a strong environmental awareness, urging reflection on the current consumption model. The Jury members were deeply impressed by the impact and potential of the artist's work, which balances boldness with sensitivity.*

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