



THREE GLOBAL EVENTS
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS
AND LICENSING TRADING



From May 8 to 11, Bologna Children's Book Fair will be at the 21st Thessaloniki International Book Fair as part of Italy Guest of Honour programme

From May 8 to 11, **Bologna Children's Book Fair (BCBF)** will participate in the 21st **Thessaloniki International Book Fair (TBF)**, the most important Greek book fair which has become an international landmark, a major hub for cultural and commercial exchanges between Europe, the Balkans, the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

The relationship between Greece and Bologna Children's Book Fair has always been strong, with Greek publishers participating in the Fair since its earliest years. In 2023, Greece was the first Market of Honour at BolognaBookPlus (the brand extension of Bologna Children's Book Fair dedicated to general trade publishing, organized in collaboration with AIE - Italian Publishers Association) and was featured at the heart of the design exhibition Best of the Best Greece, which celebrated excellence in Greek book jacket design.

On occasions when Italy participates as Guest of Honour in major international book events, as a global leader in children's publishing—thanks to over sixty years of experience and initiatives that have earned international recognition—BCBF often contributes to the programme by bringing in it the richness of children's and young adult publishing with exhibitions and events. Following, among the others, successful experiences at the Frankfurter Buchmesse, the Salon du Livre de Paris, and in Taipei—where Italy was GoH respectively in 2024, 2023 and 2025—Bologna's presence at the Thessaloniki International Book Fair will take place on the occasion of **Italy's** debut as **Guest of Honour Country**. This presence not only underscores the deep historical ties between Italy and Greece, dating back to antiquity, but also highlights the importance of fostering international relationships to promote cultural exchange.

Italy's programme is made possible thanks to the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Embassy of Italy in Athens and the Italian Cultural Institute of Athens, the Ministry of Culture with the Book and Reading Centre, ITA - Italian Trade Agency responsible for the promotion abroad and the internationalisation of Italian companies, and the cooperation of AIE.

In Greece, **Elena Pasoli**, Director Bologna Children's Book Fair, and **Jacks Thomas**, Guest Director BolognaBookPlus, will give start to the professional panels programme on May 8 (12.30-1.00 pm, Dialogue Stage, Pavilion 15, HELEXPO Exhibition Center) with the round table **"The importance of International Book Fairs as forums for sharing good practices, knowledge, ideas and business opportunities"**, moderated by Lambrini Kouzeli, journalist.

On Friday May 9 (4.00-5.00 pm, Poetry Box – Pavilion 14), **Deanna Belluti**, Illustration and Translation Events Manager Bologna Children's Book Fair, will also be part of the event **"From Bologna to Greece, from Greece to Bologna"**, presenting the project "From Bologna to the World: Fostering Talent in Illustration and Translation" and discussing about the ongoing and fundamental relationship of Bologna Children's Book Fair with IBBY, together with Angeliki Mastromichalaki, General Secretary of the Greek IBBY, and Panagiota Strikou, Treasurer of the Greek IBBY.

Alongside the events, Bologna Children's Book Fair will bring to Greece a selection of illustrations from the 2025 **Illustrators Exhibition**, as well as ***I Colori dell'Antico*** (The Colors of Antiquity), a new exhibition organized by Bologna Children's Book Fair in collaboration with the Italian Publishers Association and curated by the Drosselmeier Academy on the occasion of Italy being Guest of Honour at the Thessaloniki International Book Fair.



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BOLOGNA
CHILDREN'S
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The project brings together the work of Italian illustrators who, through different techniques and sensibilities, have given new shapes and colors to the **classical world**. Over the past twenty years, there has been a renewed interest in mythology, epic tales, and Greco-Roman culture within children's literature. Ancient stories have come back to life through new images and languages, bringing younger generations closer to the artistic and cultural heritage of the Mediterranean. The collection of works on display highlights this resurgence of ancient art, explored through both classical and digital techniques and vibrant, pop-inspired color palettes.

The artists featured in the exhibition include: **Sara Not, Camilla Pintonato, Fabio Visintin, Serena Viola, Desideria Guicciardini, Beatrice Bandiera, Daniela Spoto, Paolo D'Altan, Camilla Garofano, Lucia Scuderi, Rita Petruccioli, Alessandra De Cristofano, Daniela Tieni, Laura Fanelli, Alessandra Vitelli, Pia Valentinis e Daniela Stamadiati.**

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