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BOLOGNA GRAND TOUR 2024: THE FOURTH STAGE IS AT THE GUADALAJARA INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR, FROM 30 NOVEMBER TO 8 DECEMBER

The launch of the new Bologna Portfolio Award, a meeting about traditional communities and peoples from the African diaspora, the exhibitions of illustrations, comics and books

The Bologna Grand Tour 2024, the autumn itinerary for the **Bologna Children's Book Fair (BCBF)** – accompanied by **BolognaBookPlus (BBPlus)**, the initiative aimed at generalist publishers organised together with the Italian Publishers Association (AIE), and by **Bologna Licensing Trade Fair/Kids (BLTF/K)**, specialized in the relationship between the worlds of publishing and licensing – will be making its fourth stop at the **Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara**, from 30 November to 8 December 2024. Thanks to the support and cooperation of ITA - the Italian Trade Agency and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the tour showcases BCBF's best initiatives around the world, thus strengthening and expanding its network of relations with foreign operators and promoting their interaction with Italian publishing ahead of the coming edition of the Fair (scheduled for 31 March to 3 April 2025 in Bologna). The appointment is in the International Area, **stand HH7**.

The programme put together for the Mexican fair will include a return for this edition of **The Illustrators Survival Corner** (30 November-4 December): five days of events for illustrators dedicated to their craft, organised by BCBF with Mimaster Illustrazione. This occasion will also see the launch of a new initiative: **The Illustrators First Aid Station**, an opportunity for free debate and open interaction between illustrators and professionals in the sector to share experiences of professional life, both regarding creativity and the practical aspects of managing careers in illustration. This edition's guests include: illustrators **Isidro Ferrer, María Luque, Santiago Solís Montes de Oca, Miguel Tanco**; numerous international publishers, including A Buen Paso, Acoma Book, Alboroto Ediciones, Diego Pun Ediciones, Editorial Juventud, Ekaré, Instituto Emilia, Leetra editorial, Petra Ediciones, White Star; as well as professionals from the sector such as **Maru Aguzzi**, director of Gran Salón México.

Also linked to The Illustrators Survival Corner is the most eagerly awaited initiative of BCBF's programme at Latin America's leading publishing event: the first edition of the new **Bologna Portfolio Award**, the prize set up by the Bologna Children's Book Fair with the aim of acknowledging the portfolio as a **pivotal tool in the profession of illustration**, the key to accessing new work opportunities and the main vehicle for communication between illustrators and their clients. Participation is open to all those **enrolled in the portfolio reviews** at The Illustrators Survival Corner at the Guadalajara Fair and Bologna Children's Book Fair is offering the winner the prize of a **trip to Bologna** for the next edition of the fair (31 March-3 April 2025). After an initial shortlist drawn up during the portfolio reviews in Guadalajara, the winner will then be selected by a Jury composed of three industry professionals. BCBF is also offering all the participants in the contest **complimentary access to the Illustrators Wall 2025**, the digital showcase for illustrators from all over the world.

The choice of Guadalajara for the launch of the award is, in fact, intended to show BCBF's support for the young talents of illustration in Central and South America, an area that for some time now has been demonstrating its creative and development potential on the international publishing scene. Its illustrators have been earning numerous accolades and prizes at BCBF and the world's main illustration events: to name just a few, Brazilians Bruno de Almeida is the young illustrator selected to create BCBF's 2025 visual identity and Henrique Moreira is the winner of the Bologna Children's Book Fair - Fundación SM 2024 International Illustration Award; the Fiction category of the BRAW 2024 was won by Issa Watanabe, from Peru; while Chile's Paloma Valdivia won the Grand Prix of the Bratislava Biennial of Illustration 2023 and was thus selected to create the cover of the 2024 Illustrators

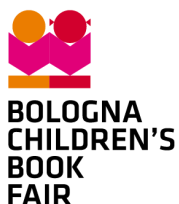


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Annual.

One of the highlights of the Mexican programme is the meeting curated and chaired by **Dolores Prades** (Director of Instituto Emilia and BCBF consultant for Latin America, Brazil) '**Trans-American Bridges - Traditional Communities and Literature**' (4 December, 3-3.50 pm, Foro de Industria, Area Internacional, HH Corridor), a round table discussion featuring **Rita Carelli** (author and illustrator, Brazil), **David Unger** (author and translator, Guatemala) and **Simon de Jocas** (editor of Les 400 coups, Canada). Faced with ties that, even today, remain fragile between South and Central America and North America, and Canada in particular, the speakers will discuss the importance of establishing a dialogue aimed at identifying common interests and challenges in order to strengthen the affirmation of traditional communities and Afro-descendant peoples throughout the Americas, from North to South, while fostering interactions that can nurture publishing production for children and young people.

Finally, BCBF will be bringing two book and illustration exhibitions to Guadalajara to showcase the best of the Italian tradition of children's literature to the general public and professionals from Latin America. **From Illustration to Comics: pencils in talented young hands**, exhibited for the first time at the Frankfurt 2024 Buchmesse as the only illustration exhibition as part of the Italy Country Guest of Honour programme, is designed to offer a **window onto contemporary Italian illustration**, a true artistic scene of excellence, and will feature the works of **thirty young talents**. The exhibition is curated by Accademia Drosselmeier and Giannino Stoppani Cooperativa Sociale and organised by BolognaFiere/Bologna Children's Book Fair/BolognaBookPlus with the collaboration of the Italian Publishers Association (AIE). The exhibition **Literature as an engine of change - A selection of Italian books** is curated by the Italian section of **IBBY** - International Board on Books for Young People and consists of a selection of 65 children's books chosen from among the best releases published in Italy in the last two years (2023/24), with a special section dedicated to 'books about books', a category designed for all those interested in studying and promoting children's literature.

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