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BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR BRINGING ITALIAN ILLUSTRATION TO FRANKFURT

BCBF is presenting the exhibition "From illustration to comics. Pencils in talented young hands" as part of the Italy Guest of Honour programme at the Buchmesse

From 16 to 20 October Bologna Children's Book Fair will be showcasing the future of Italian illustration at the **Frankfurter Buchmesse**, where it will take part in the programme Italy Guest of Honour 2024 with the exhibition **"Matite giovani tra illustrazione e fumetto" (From illustration to comics. Pencils in talented young hands)** held in the Italian Pavilion and featuring young Italian talents.

The Italian Publishers Association (AIE), Italy Guest of Honour, and the Italian government's Extraordinary Commissioner Mauro Mazza have thus acknowledged BCBF's role as the world's leading event in the field of illustration, a position achieved thanks to more than sixty years of experience in the field of publishing for children and young people and through initiatives that have made history and earned recognition all over the world. These include the annual Illustrators Exhibition, a showcase for excellence in international illustration and the numerous opportunities to support emerging talents, from the BCBF visual identity workshop to the International Illustration Award with Fundación SM, to the Ars in Fabula scholarship organised in collaboration with the homonymous school in Macerata and leading publishers. There is also the Italian Excellence series of exhibitions showcasing the best Italian illustration across the network of Italian Cultural Institutions in collaboration with the Emilia-Romagna regional administration and the Italian ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The series has developed into a fully-fledged format that has inspired the creation of the new series of exhibitions 'Chinese Excellence in Children's Illustration'.

"From illustration to comics. Pencils in talented young hands", curated by Accademia Drosselmeier and organised by BolognaFiere/Bologna Children's Book Fair/BolognaBookPlus with the collaboration of AIE, stems from the desire to offer a window on contemporary Italian illustration for the world's publishers gathered in Frankfurt for the annual professional event. Italian illustration is a genuine artistic scene of excellence resulting as much from the specialized schools forging new talents in Urbino, Milan, Macerata, Bolzano, Bologna and Florence, as from BCBF and the leading role that the fair plays in promoting new artists and bringing them into contact with an international scenario through its awards and initiatives. "From illustration to comics. Pencils in talented young hands" is also the title of the magazine that will accompany the exhibition, a catalogue/story filled with texts, reflections and interviews with the selected illustrators and featuring a conversation between Ivan Canu and the great Lorenzo Mattotti, author of the poster for Italy Guest of Honour and a frequent visitor to BCBF.

Elena Pasoli, Director of Bologna Children's Book Fair, explains: *"It is a great honour for us to have been chosen to curate the only illustration exhibition that Italy is bringing to the Frankfurt Book Fair as Country Guest of Honour. This assignment is recognition of the Bologna Children's Book Fair's role as the leading event in the world market of publishing for children and young people and of its ongoing commitment to unearthing and promoting young talents. We are thrilled to be able to contribute to this extraordinary moment of visibility for our country and for the world of illustration"*.

Commissioner **Mauro Mazza**: *"We are delighted to bring to Frankfurt the exhibition "From illustration to comics. Pencils in talented young hands", curated by the Drosselmeier Academy and organised by BolognaFiere/Bologna Children's Book Fair/BolognaBookPlus, in the knowledge that it will bring a tangible dimension to the slogan "Radici nel futuro" (Roots in the future) at the Italy Country Guest of Honour Pavilion"*.



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Thirty young artists, eclectic in form and manner and all blossoming, have been selected by a special committee to represent this lively panorama abroad. They are: **Eliana Albertini, Federico Attardo, Francesca Ballarini, BeneDi, Lucia Biancalana, Alessandra Bruni, Cammamoro, Carlotta Dicaldo, Elio Ferrario, Maurizio Lacavalla, Marta Lonardi, Albhey Longo, Edoardo Massa, Margherita Meneguzzi, Giulio Noccesi, Chiara Palillo, Alida Pintus, Giulia Pintus, Marco Quadri, Silvia Reginato, Margaux Romano, Marco Sandreschi, Noah Schiatti, Laura Simonati, Davide Spelta, Anna Spreafico, Stefano Summo, Filippo Toscani, Lucrezia Viperina and Irene Volpiano.**

The exhibition will be presented on **16 October at 1.30 pm at a meeting at the Caffè Letterario**, attended by **Elena Pasoli** (Director of Bologna Children's Book Fair and promoter of the exhibition), **Grazia Gotti** and **Silvana Sola** (curators of the exhibition and co-founders of the Giannino Stoppioni Children's Bookshop and the Drosselmeier Academy) and **Ivan Canu** (member of the selection committee, illustrator, director of Mimaster) as well as some of the featured illustrators. The guests will discuss how in today's world filled with images, illustration is, above all, communication, and how the profession of the illustrator is constantly evolving amidst ever new challenges and increasingly international and differentiated markets and training pathways.

Bologna Children's Book Fair – together with **BolognaBookPlus** (BBPlus), the initiative specifically for generalist publishers organised in collaboration with the Italian Publishers Association (AIE), and **Bologna Licensing Trade Fair/Kids** (BLTF/Kids), which focuses on the relationship between the worlds of publishing and licensing – will also be attending the Frankfurter Buchmesse with its own stand (**Hall 5. 0 - Stand A98**) for its 2024 Grand Tour around the world's leading publishing fairs, organised with the support and collaboration of ITA - Italian Trade Agency and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. BCBF will be showcasing its leading initiatives, bolstering relations with foreign operators and promoting their engagement with Italian publishing ahead of the next edition of the fair (scheduled to take place in Bologna from 31 March to 3 April 2025).

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