



THE 63RD BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR

THE FABULOUS WARDROBE AND THE NEVER-ENDING TWIST: an international collection of picture books spanning fashion, costumes and childhood

On display at the eXtraBO space at the Bologna Children's Book Fair, 2 – 19 April

Threads, fabrics and clothes have populated the imagination and literature since time immemorial, playing a role that is not merely material, but also – and above all – emotional and symbolic, and one that can be found across generations in every culture.

Seen from this perspective, international children's publishing is offering the chance to step into a magical fashion show where not only hoods, boots and shoes, but also dresses, accessories and fabrics dress the story in new forms and figures.

The Fabulous Wardrobe and the Never-Ending Twist is the exhibition organised by the Bologna Children's Book Fair and curated by **Marcella Terrusi, Silvana Sola, Mariaelena Schiavo and Anna Giulia Morano**, which, following the success of its first iteration at the 2024 edition of the China Shanghai International Children's Book Fair, now arrives in Bologna for BCBF in a revised version enriched with new texts.

On display at the **eXtraBo** space (Piazza Nettuno 1/ab, Bologna) from **2 to 19 April** will be **150 illustrated books** of outstanding quality by 86 publishers from around the world, from Korea to Portugal, from Australia to the Netherlands: an imaginative catwalk populated by characters in search of their own style.

Divided into six sections (Yarns; Patterns and Motives; Choices; Tailors, Designers and Couturiers; Fairytale Elegance; The Game of Fashion), the exhibition offers an unusual journey through the art of the illustrated book and invites visitors to take a fresh look at everyday objects and gestures – sewing, tailoring and the history of fashion – in the spirit of an inexhaustible creative expression and with a tension that is both a political and transformative.

The pages visit the childhoods of designers and artists such as Coco Chanel, Elsa Schiaparelli and Louise Bourgeois, and include stories of resistance and self-determination, beloved and coveted garments, and even Beatrix Potter's sewing mice, not to mention the foolish emperor in many guises. Shapes and patterns invented and reimaged in novel and surprising ways, through experimentation in graphic technique and paper-craft.

There will be three in-depth events at the fair, chaired by the exhibition's curator, Marcella Terrusi. **"The Fabulous Wardrobe: Beatrice Alemagna and Paola Caridi. Fabric Tales"** (Monday 13 April, 1pm, Book Lovers' Café) is a multi-voiced, multi-perspective reflection on childhood, history, stories, care and fabric, a dialogue between the perspectives on childhood and storytelling of acclaimed picture book author Beatrice Alemagna and journalist and writer Paola Caridi.

"The Fabulous Wardrobe of Albertine: the Great Defilé of Picturebook" (Wednesday 15 April, 9.50am, The Illustrators Café): **Albertine Zullo** (illustrator, Switzerland) and **Giulia Rossi** (fashion semiologist, Italy) explore Albertine's artistic universe, spanning fashion, illustration, design and imagination. The work of the multi-award-winning Swiss artist – winner of the 2020 Hans Christian Andersen Award for Illustration – often focuses on clothing, offering a humorous and wide-ranging reflection on fashion and the creation of unexpected and imaginative designs.





“The Fabulous Wardrobe and the Never-ending Twist: Fairy Tale, Fashion, Art, Yarns and Picture Books”
 (Wednesday 15 April, 5 pm, Book Lovers’ Café), with **Sophie Benini** (illustrator, author, Italy); **Vittoria Facchini** (illustrator, Italy); **Steven Guarnaccia** (illustrator, designer, USA); **Kristin Roskifte** (author, illustrator, Norway) and **Viktoria Semikina** (illustrator, Russia). International authors and illustrators explain how thread, fabric and fashion intertwine in their picture books: Guarnaccia relates fashion to the classic fairy tale, for Benini thread tells a story of childhood, for Facchini fashion inspires fabulous inventions, Semikina illustrates the art of weaving, whilst Roskifte, from Norway, counts the characters in the illustrations like the stitches in a knit.

An exhibition by: Bologna Children’s Book Fair

Curated by: Marcella Terrusi, Silvana Sola, Mariaelena Schiavo, Anna Giulia Morano

Under the patronage of: Unibo

And supported by: BIBLIOTECA CENTRALE B.L.U. del Campus di Rimini

In collaboration with: Sartoria Oriana Neri / Libreria per ragazzi Giannino Stoppani / La bottega in scatola / Fatatrac edizioni

As part of: Boom! Crescere nei libri

Organisation: Laboratorio delle Idee

Design: Chialab

