



## THE 60<sup>th</sup> BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR-BCBF

**The Children's Book Fair, together with the exhibition *Italian Excellence. Illustrations for Italo Calvino*, will be at the 2023 Festival du Livre de Paris where Italy is Guest of Honour**

**From 21 to 23 April, the bond between France and BCBF to be further strengthened**

Bologna Children's Book Fair has long enjoyed strong ties with France. French publishers have supported the Bologna Fair adventure since its very first edition in 1964, down the years becoming not only exhibitors but partners and sincere friends. Continuous exchange and collaboration have been key as we broadened our programme to develop what is now the world's premier children's book fair, a yearly must-attend event for publishers and operators from all continents. By the same token, the excellence of French books for children was immediately recognized in Bologna. Prizes awarded, copyright deals and exhibitions staged, all confirmed French children's publishers among the best in the world.

As part of Italy's participation as **Guest of Honour Country** at the Festival du Livre de Paris (21 - 23 April, Grand Palais Éphémère), Bologna Children's Book Fair will further these strong ties with the Exhibition **Italian Excellence. Illustrations for Italo Calvino**. The Exhibition will be staged in the 500 m<sup>2</sup> Italy Pavilion at the Grand Palais Éphémère – part of a far-reaching drive to promote Italian publishing on the world stage, made possible thanks to the support and partnership of the **Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**, the **Ministry of Culture** through the **Centre for Books and Reading**, the **Italian Embassy in Paris**, the **Italian Cultural Institute in Paris**, **ITA – The Italian Trade Agency promoting the internationalization of Italian companies**, and **AIE - Italian Publishers' Association**.

This fourth edition of the "Italian Excellence" exhibition series is Bologna Children's Book Fair's tribute to one of Italy's greatest 20<sup>th</sup>-century authors on the centennial of his birth. Promoted and organized by the Bologna Children's Book Fair in partnership with the Emilia-Romagna Region, and with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Paris exhibition will show **61 illustrations created with one of Calvino's works in mind**. 31 illustrations - by acclaimed artists like **Géraldine Alibeu, Rotraut Susanne Berner, Desideria Guicciardini, Georges Lemoine, Emanuele Luzzati, Fabian Negrin, Roger Olmos, Giulia Orecchia, and Alessandro Sanna** – have been taken from already published works; the other 30 are the winners of a contest promoted by the Book Fair open to anyone wanting to submit their personal vision of Calvino's characters, places and themes. The works exhibited are included in the Exhibition's bilingual (Italian-English) catalogue published by Mondadori. Both the Exhibition and the catalogue were curated by Accademia Drosselmeier/Cooperative Giannino Stoppani.

Italy returns in 2023 to the **Festival du Livre de Paris** after 21 years as **Guest of Honour Country**, to a country that is Italian publishing's second largest market, with 917 titles sold in 2020 (2022 data from the AIE Research Unit).

**Bologna Children's Book Fair Press Office**

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#### **Bologna Children's Book Fair (BCBF)**

Bologna Children's Book Fair is the world's leading fair of children's publishing and content, attracting 1,500 exhibitors and about 30,000 trade visitors from around 100 countries. BCBF celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> edition in 2023. Every year Bologna plays host to a truly unique gathering of publishers, agents, developers, illustrators, authors, booksellers, librarians and allied professionals but also multimedia and children's content licensing specialists.

#### **BolognaBookPlus (BBPlus)**

Launched in 2020 by BCBF/BolognaFiere, in partnership with the Italian Publishers' Association (AIE), BolognaBookPlus caters for a general trade publishing audience. Occupying a distinct exhibition area, its wide-ranging programme includes training courses and conferences. BolognaBookPlus Guest Director Jacks Thomas and her UK team work closely with the Bologna team.

#### **Bologna Licensing Trade Fair/Kids (BLTF/Kids)**

An integral part of Bologna Children's Book Fair, located at the centre of the Fair, BLTF/Kids hosts major international licensing and entertainment operators presenting over 600 brands. Facilities available include a Licensing Retail Lounge, a Fashion Product Showcase, and area where licensees can present their retail projects.

#### **BolognaFiere**

BolognaFiere S.p.A. is a leading exhibition organiser in Europe with over 85 events. A premier world trade-show organiser in a range of sectors, including art, publishing, cosmetics, agribusiness, construction and design, BolognaFiere has developed a portfolio of cutting-edge international exhibitions in the major Russian, North American and Asian markets, including China, where it has organised 8 trade shows to date.

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