

55th BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR
26th -29th March 2018

The Illustrators' Exhibition:
the international jury has made its selection in Bologna

More than 15 thousand works have been viewed, 80 illustrators have been chosen from all over the world for the exhibition at the Bologna Children's Book Fair

3053 illustrators from **72 countries** for a total of **15265 works** viewed by a jury of five international figures from the world of illustration and children's publishing. A total of **77 works** have been selected, from **25 countries and regions**: these are the numbers for the 2018 edition of the **Illustrators Exhibition**, which will be taking place at the heart of the Bologna Children's Book Fair **from 26th to 29th March 2018 at BolognaFiere**.

A unique occasion for meeting and discussing stories, cultures, styles and traditions from every corner of the globe, all of which share a capacity for narrating our present times and illuminating the future trends in children's illustration. For over fifty years the Illustrators Exhibition at the Bologna Children's Book Fair has been consolidating its position as the international showcase for the latest trends in the field of children's illustration, a stage for high profile personalities and debut artists alike to discuss and share ideas at an event that is the highpoint in the calendar for the publishing industry.

Over the past few days in Bologna the prestigious international jury came together to view more than 15000 illustrations: **William Grill**, British illustrator, the second youngest winner of the Kate Greenaway Award in 2014 and winner of the Bologna Ragazzi Award for non-fiction in 2017, **Allyn Johnston**, publisher and vice president of Beach Lane Books in California, **Anastasia Arkhipova**, Russian illustrator, winner of numerous awards and teacher at the Stroganov Academy of Fine Arts in Moscow, **Peggy Espinosa**, director, publisher and illustrator at the Mexican publisher Petra Ediciones and **Bernd Mölck-Tassel**, German illustrator and professor at the University of Applied Science in Hamburg (HAW).

Following the extraordinary success of last year's edition, this year too the Exhibition will be presented with a **non-conventional format**: the illustrations will, in fact, be exhibited on tables around which it will be possible to walk, observing the artwork from the same perspective as the jury as they made their selections. Following the Fair in Bologna the Exhibition will continue on a world tour that will take it, over the next two years, to cultural centres in Japan and China, becoming a international showcase for the selected artists.

The opportunities that the Illustrators Exhibition offers go well beyond the exhibition. The Illustrators Annual, in fact, published in Italian, English, Japanese and Chinese and with a further edition for the USA market, is distributed all over the world. The

cover of the 2018 catalogue will be illustrated by **Ludwig Volbeda**, the young Dutch winner of the **Grand Prix at the Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava 2017**.

Further opportunities for visibility are reserved for the younger selected artists: the participants aged under 35 will be put forward for the **Bologna Children's Book Fair - Fundación SM, International Illustration Award** due to be announced during the Fair. The winner will be awarded a grant equal to 15 thousand dollars in order to fund the creation of a book that will be published by the publisher SM, in addition to the organisation of a personal exhibition during the next edition of the Fair. The winner in 2017 of the 8th edition, of the **Bologna Children's Book Fair - Fundación SM, International Illustration Award** was **Manuel Marsol**.

Furthermore, as was the case with the past two editions, a debut illustrator will be selected from those chosen for the Exhibition and will be given the task of creating the image for the communications campaign of the following year's edition of the Bologna Children's Book Fair. Taking centre stage at the BCBF visual identity workshop this year was the young Parisian artist **Chloé Alméras**.

Again this year, the Bologna Children's Book Fair and Pitti Immagine Bimbo will continue the partnership established two years ago with the project ***Off the Page...and into the World of Fashion*** to create a bridge between fashion and publishing, which although very different find common ground in the world of illustration. A jury of experts will select from the Illustrators-Exhibition the artists whose work is considered best suited to enter into a dialogue with the brands present at the event. The works will be on display during the event **Pitti Immagine Bimbo 87**, which will take place from the 21st June to 23 June 2018.

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