

BRATISLAVA CASTLE AGAIN THE CENTRE OF WORLD CHILDREN'S ILLUSTRATION

International jury has awarded prestigious prizes

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For almost 55 years Bratislava has been changing the world of words into the country of fantasy and has lived a life full of illustrations from all over the world. The international competition of originals of illustrations of books for children and young people called Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB) opens its 28th year these days and presents the best of what has been created in the world of children's illustration for last two years. It will take place from 15 October 2021 to 9 January 2022 in the rooms of Bratislava Castle. The main organizer of this event is BIBIANA, International House of Art for Children. The Biennial takes place under the auspices of UNESCO and International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic. BIB 2021 takes place under the auspices of the president of the Slovak Republic Zuzana Čaputová.

The crises caused by the Covid-19 pandemic could not stop illustrators creating and publishing houses publishing new books for children. Almost 380 illustrators from 42 countries with more than 2700 illustrations and almost 500 books applied for this year Biennial competition. **"Today, when the whole world has been paralyzed by the Covid-19 pandemic, we at the Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava have created a counterbalance to it – it is a pandemic of fantasy, creativity and beauty of art. Even in hard times BIB represents asylum of imagination and a balm to our souls. The top composition of the ten-member international jury led by the president of IBBY Mingzhou Zhang has judged online more than 2700 originals of illustrations. And I think that even 'online' they succeeded in choosing the best of the best"**, the General Commissioner of BIB and the chairman of the BIB International Committee Zuzana Jarošová says.

International jury consisting of experts from the field of book culture has awarded prizes to the best illustrators – Grand Prix, 5 Golden Apples, 5 Plaques and Honorary Mentions to publishers as follows:

Winner of Grand Prix BIB 2021

is **Elena Odriozola from Spain** for illustrations in the book **Mixed Feelings**.

Winners of Golden Apple of BIB 2021 are:

Myung Ae Lee, Republic of Korea: Tomorrow Will Be a Sunny Day

Amanda Mijangos, Armando Fonseca, Juan Palomino, Mexico: The Sea

Sylvie Bello, France: The First Snow

Anna & Varvara Kendel, Russia: To the North, Our Earth Breathes

Chao Zhang, China: Poetry and Painting Collection, Story of Grandma's Snowflower

BIB 2021 Plaque goes to:

Ghazal Fatollahi, Iran: You are an Explorer

Mamiko Shiotani, Japan: The Story of Egg

Mohammad Barangi Fashtami, Iran: Phoenix

Dale Blankenaar, South Africa: Quil Soup

Armando Fonseca, Mexico: The Howling

Honorary Mention for the publisher goes to:

Czech Republic - Verzzone, 2020: Ludwig van Beethoven

Italy - Topipittori, 2021: La prima neve

Spain - Zahori books, 2019: Lost Landscapes

As usual, non-statutory awards were also given at BIB 2021. **Children's Jury Award** was given to **Fabienne Delacroix from France, Award of the Mayor of the Capital City Bratislava** to **Zuzana Bočkayová Bruncková** and **Post Bank Award** to **Jana Kiselová - Siteková**.

The exhibition of all original illustrations of books for children and young people participating in the competition as well as other representative exhibitions are installed in the rooms of Bratislava Castle. It is already a tradition that a part of BIB 2021 is the exhibition of the winner of Grand Prix BIB from the previous year and of the winners of H. CH. Andersen Award for illustration and literature. We are introducing Hassan Mousavi from Iran (Grand Prix BIB 2019), Albertine from Switzerland (H.CH. Andersen Award 2020 for illustrations) and the book publications of Jacqueline Woodson from USA (H.CH. Andersen Award 2020 for literature). Slovakia is represented by the collection of illustrations created by the significant Slovak illustrator Božena Plocháčová.

Another installation can be found on the West Terrace of Bratislava Castle with the title **THREE**, it presents works of 3 illustrators who received the non-statutory awards at BIB 2019: Svetozár Košícký - Children's Jury Award, Boris Šima - Award of the Mayor of the Capital City Bratislava and Miroslav Cipár - The Post Bank Award for extraordinary contribution to illustration art. The exhibition of **Loving Pictures** in the gallery dedicated to D. Roll in BIBIANA presents illustrations of participators in the international Albín Brunovský's BIB-UNESCO Workshop for young illustrators from developing countries that took place in Mojmírovce in 2019. It was organized under the auspices of the mayor of the City District of Bratislava - Staré Mesto Zuzana Aufrichtová.

Many of the accompanying events have been cancelled this year due to the pandemic situation (International BIB Symposium, Albín Brunovský's BIB-UNESCO Workshop, conferences of IBBY Institute Bratislava will be held online). Creative workshops, discussions with artist, illustrators and writers, different activities for the youngest ones will be a part of this unique event, if the current situation makes it possible. The reference library will provide visitors the opportunity to browse through book titles from the competition.

It is said that books are an opened door to the magic world and illustration is one of its most important parts because it can evoke extraordinary emotions... Pictures from children's books stay in our minds, even if we often forget the story.

The general partner of this event is the Post Bank, the general media partner is the Radio and Television Slovakia.

Updated information is available on:

<https://www.bibiana.sk/en/biennial-illustrations-bratislava>

Winner's illustrations can be downloaded on:

<https://www.bibiana.sk/en/media/images>

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