

In the High Imagination

Italy Guest of Honor 4-9 February 2025

TiBE
台北國際書展
Taipei International Book Exhibition

PROGRAM

**When we are
all Italians**



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Ministero degli Affari Esteri
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ITALIAN TRADE AGENCY
L'agenzia per la promozione dell'export
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E LA LETTURA**

AIE Associazione
Italiana
Editori

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Ministry of Culture - Centro per il libro e la lettura
Italian Economic, Trade and Cultural Promotion Office in Taipei
ITA - Italian Trade Agency
AIE - Italian Publishers Association

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PROMOTERS

Italian Economic, Trade and Cultural Promotion Office in Taipei

I am delighted to welcome you to the 2025 edition of Taipei International Book Exhibition (TIBE) from February 4 to 9, 2025 where Italy will be the guest of honor! We are thrilled at having, such an amazing opportunity for the first time! Italy is known worldwide for its authors, writers, literature, art and culture. We have a multi-millennial history that has provided a huge contribution to our shared civilization. Words that are very meaningful for today's world, like inclusion and resilience originated



in Italy thousands of years ago. The Roman Empire, thanks to its civilization, was able to create an inclusive and resilient space that stretched from London to Bagdad and where people, with very different backgrounds, called themselves Romans! I think that this is the Roman Empire's greatest achievement. Our heritage is in this spirit and its success story is an example for us all. During TIBE 2025, Italy will focus on the imagination, something that is very important for Italians. This concept of imagination will be linked to Italo Calvino and Dante masterpieces. Imagination is also very important for "Made in Italy" and is always a key factor in Italian creativity that contributes to making our world a better place. Thanks to our thousands of years of history, we can say everybody can "live the Italian way". That's why, with the "when we are all Italians" message, we will show you how we all share those values of inclusivity and resilience that originated in Italy and are now shared by everyone. Everybody feels Italian when they are eating delicious Italian food, drinking amazing Italian wines, visiting Italian cities, wearing Italian clothes or driving Italian cars. We are all Italians when, all together, we discover our common past through sights, flavors and sounds that, thanks to "living the Italian way", belong to us all!

In wishing you a wonderful Taipei International Book exhibition 2025, I invite you all to visit the Italian Pavilion that will have a very important Delegation of Italian authors and scholars that will make this event even richer and unforgettable. I would like to thank all the organizers for their important contributions to an event that will undoubtedly be memorable. I look forward to meeting you all at the Italian Pavillion at TIBE 2025, and hope you enjoy this amazing event that will enrich us all "when we are all Italians"! Viva la fantasia e l'italianità!

Marco Lombardi

Head of the Italian Economic, Trade and Cultural Promotion Office in Taipei



Centro per il libro e la lettura is an autonomous Institute of the Ministry of Culture that is part of Direzione Generale Biblioteche, within the Department for Cultural Activities. Chaired by Adriano Monti Buzzetti and directed by Luciano Lanna, it works to promote reading in Italy and Italian books, culture and authors abroad. It implements, supports and coordinates projects involving the book world and its professions: publishers, booksellers, librarians, translators, authors, teachers, researchers, cultural workers and reading promoters.

The Center contributes to the implementation of policies to promote Italian books, culture and authors abroad through a specific call provided for in the Action Plan for the Promotion of Reading established by the 2020 Reading Law. In addition, it participates in fairs, festivals, awards and other international events, ensures a contribution to the realization of the Italian-German Prize for Translation, awarded since 2008, and promotes and finances the organization of stays and training activities aimed at translators.



ITALIAN TRADE AGENCY

ICE - Agenzia per la promozione all'estero e l'internazionalizzazione delle imprese italiane

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ITA - Italian Trade Agency is the Governmental agency that supports the business development of our companies abroad and promotes the attraction of foreign investment in Italy.

With a modern organization and a widespread network of over 70 overseas offices, ITA provides information, assistance, consulting, promotion and training to Italian small and medium-sized businesses. Using the most modern multi-channel promotion and communication tools, it acts to assert the excellence of Made in Italy in the world.

ITA actively promotes the Italian publishing sector in close collaboration with trade associations such as the Italian Publishers Association (AIE) and other institutions within the publishing industry. The value of books and publishing products is vital: books serve as an exceptional vehicle for cultural promotion and contribute to Italy's image worldwide.

ITA's promotional activities and support for small and medium-sized Italian publishers in their internationalization

efforts focus on organizing professional meetings, fostering exchanges, and facilitating knowledge-sharing, rights trading, and editorial collaborations.

Among the events supported by ITA are: in Italy, the incoming missions of international professionals at key fairs such as the Bologna Children's Book Fair, the Turin International Book Fair (Salone Internazionale del Libro di Torino), and the Più Libri Più Liberi fair in Rome.

Abroad, in close collaboration with AIE, ITA organizes the official Italian pavilion at major international events, including the London Book Fair, the Guadalajara Book Fair, the Beijing Book Fair, and Frankfurter Buchmesse (where Italy was the Guest of Honour in 2024).

This year we are grateful to be the Country of Honor at the Taipei International Book Exhibition.

Welcome!



Founded in 1869, the Italian Publishers' Association is the oldest trade association in Italy. Chaired by Innocenzo Cipolletta and directed by Fabio Del Giudice, for over 150 years it has represented and protected publishers who publish books, scientific journals and digital content on a national and international level. It constitutes an up-to-date observatory on the panorama of reading, the publishing market, cultural and educational consumption - from school to university - indispensable for the growth of the country. AIE's member publishers represent over 90% of the Italian book market.

AIE is one of the founders of Confindustria and Confindustria Cultura Italia. It also participates in various committees, commissions and working groups of the main institutions, with the aim of enhancing book publishing, promoting books and reading, protecting copyright and stimulating publishers' innovation and updating.

At European and international level, AIE helped found IPA (International Publishers Association) and FEP (Federation of European Publishers), still playing a key role in both associations. AIE is also a member of ABPTOE, EDItEUR, EDR-Lab, ISBN International, DOI Foundation and Radium Foundation.

AIE participates in the most important book fairs in Italy and worldwide. Since 2002 it has organised the National Fair of Small and Medium-sized Publishers Più libri più liberi in Rome. At an international level AIE collaborates with public institutions for the presence of Italian publishers at major foreign book fairs.

PROGRAM

ABOUT “...in the high Imagination”

Flair, imagination, the ability to imagine and narrate worlds, people, feelings: “...in the high imagination,” the theme that identifies Italy's participation as Guest of Honor at the Taipei International Book Exhibition 2025, highlights the creative process and its protagonists.

Inspired by Dante's verse “poi piovette nell'alta fantasia” quoted by Italo Calvino as an epigraph to the “American lesson” on visibility, the Italian literary program explores the creative paths taken by authors and illustrators, showing through their experiences and works how creativity is a key ingredient in building a dialogue between people and cultures.

A dialogue that Italy, after its recent participation as Guest of Honor at the Paris, Bucharest, Tunis, Warsaw and Frankfurt Book Fairs, continues to promote, and that this time turns to the East, only geographically distant. After Europe, Asia is in fact the second largest area for the sale of translation rights of Italian books, of major importance in the children and young adult sector. Elements brought into focus and enhanced in the creation of the program of participation, made possible thanks to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in conjunction with the Italian Economic, Commercial and Cultural Promotion Office in Taipei, the Ministry of Culture together with the Centro per il libro e la lettura, the Italian Trade Agency and the collaboration of the Italian Publishers Association.

Italy presents itself to the Taiwanese public through the voices of a delegation

of 11 authors in which genres and perspectives alternate and mingle, opening windows on ever-changing imagery, from fiction to nonfiction, from historical to urban detective stories, from science to spirituality, from the artistic reinterpretation of great classics to the many expressions of literature for teenagers.

A journey through the current Italian cultural scene that does not disregard the tale of the past - but is always present - sketched through a portrait of its protagonists: so here in the spaces of the Italian Pavilion Umberto Eco, Gianna Manzini and Natalia Ginzburg, the fairy tales of Gianni Rodari and Carlo Collodi and the poetry of Umberto Saba come to life, recounted in Taipei by the authors present at the Fair alongside Dante and, above all, Italo Calvino. Indeed, 40 years after his death, a fitting tribute to the author who more than any other represents the many faces of the Italy of books. An author for adults and children, novelist and essayist, who worked in publishing houses and collected traditional Italian fairy tales in a central literary work.

Six days of meetings, dialogues, presentations and appointments “...in the High” Italian “Imagination” of yesterday and today, and an extraordinary opportunity for encounters and mutual enrichment that sees Italy take the Taipei International Book Exhibition another step forward in making its publishing output even more open and international.

Tuesday, February 4**12 noon**

- **Inauguration of the Italian Pavilion**

1 p.m.

- **When We are all Italians — A Taste of Italy**

2 p.m. | Inauguration of the exhibition

- **From Illustration to Comics. Pencils in Talented Young Hands.**

Guest speaker | *Grazia Gotti*
(Drosselmeier Academy/Giannino Stoppani Children's Bookshop)

Curated by Drosselmeier Academy, organized by Bologna Children's Book Fair, in collaboration with AIE - Italian Publishers Association.

In a world of images, illustration is above all communication, the creation of imagery. But what does it mean to be an illustrator today and what are the reasons that drive a young person to pursue this career? The new challenges of a constantly evolving profession, between different training paths, masters and increasingly international and differentiated markets.

3 p.m.

- **Italo Calvino, one hundred years on**

Guest speaker | *Mario Barenghi*

Moderator | *Peini Beatrice Hsieh*

While 2025 marks the fortieth anniversary of his death, 2023 marked

the centenary of Italo Calvino's birth, celebrated in Italy and around the world through a rich calendar of events and initiatives. One of his leading scholars, Mario Barenghi, sketches a portrait of the author and his work, returning the image of a polytheistic Calvino, as he titles his latest collection of essays on the subject (Calvino politeista, Carocci, 2024), who at a distance of a century has not yet exhausted the scope of his message, and whom his readers have not yet finished learning about.

4 p.m.

- **A Heart for Europe**

Guest speaker | *Federica Manzoni*

Moderator | *Ann-Yue Ni*

A meeting point between East and West, a centuries-old bridge between Central and Southern Europe, a crossroads of Mediterranean, Slavic, and Central European characters, Trieste is a city that has always been accustomed to thinking of itself over anywhere. It is precisely here that Federica Manzoni sets the novel *Alma* (Feltrinelli, 2024), creating, through the story of the eponymous protagonist, the perfect opportunity to explore the themes dearest to her (roots, identity, memory and History) and providing a fruitful point of view for understanding more about our present. Because nothing like trying to think of what we call the border as something continuously developing, always open to change, can preserve us from wars and nationalism.

PLACE / Conference Room 3, 2F, Taipei World Trade Center Hall 1**Wednesday, February 5****10 a.m. - 12 noon**

Moderator | *Emily Chuang*

Discovering the Italian book market: data, public support and internationalization

10.15 a.m.

- **The Italian Book Market: an Overview**

Guest speaker | *Bruno Giancarli*
(Italian Publishers Association - Research department)

An introductory meeting on the occasion of Italy Guest of Honor at the Taipei International Book Exhibition to illustrate the Italian publishing industry with the latest available data as to book production, genres and their trends as well as on sales and on reading habits in different age groups. Data will be illustrated in comparison to those of the year 2019 to see how the pandemics has changed the Italian book sector. Finally, we'll present a focus on readers' expectations of artificial intelligence application in the book sector.

10.50 a.m.

- **The Internationalisation of Italian Publishing**

Guest speaker | *Paola Seghi* (Italian Publishers Association – International Relations Manager)

Unlike the world's largest publishers, Italy has no linguistic reference market outside its borders. Its internationalisation

therefore passes through the buying and selling of translation rights. The subject of the meeting is the trend in the purchase and sale of rights between 2001 and 2023, the main export markets, and the genres for which the most rights are sold. With a focus on the buying and selling of rights in Asian countries. The meeting will also discuss the role of translation subsidies, measures designed to help publishers export Italian books abroad.

11.25 a.m.

- **Public Support for Reading and/or Industry?**

Guest speaker | *Lorenzo Armando*
(Italian Publishers Association – Vice President/Lexis)

Italy is a country historically characterized by low reading rates. This is also why public support in this sector has essentially been directed towards broadening the reader base, with measures such as the fund for the purchase of books by public libraries and vouchers for eighteen-year-olds to spend on cultural consumption (especially the 18app until 2023, a measure taken up in several European countries), pending a system law that has long been requested. But in the face of the growing complexity of the supply chain, and the urgency to innovate, to ensure solidity and liveliness to the sector, we are beginning to think about measures that also concern enterprises, especially the medium and small ones that characterize the Italian system also in the sector of the cultural and creative industry.

Wednesday, February 5

3 p.m.

▪ **Keeping Hope**Guest speaker | *Luca Peyron*Moderator | *Peini Beatrice Hsieh*

"Spei Satelles," the guardian of hope, is the name of the first space mission in the history of the Catholic Church created to highlight how science and technology, also enlightened by faith, can be an engine of hope. Inspired by the deep sky, Fr. Luca Peyron – who is one of the coordinators of "Spei Satelles" – traces the lines of this triangle in his *Cieli sereni* (San Paolo, 2023). The exploration of the Universe, illuminated by faith, can lead us to know depths and wonders about ourselves that perhaps we did not even think we possessed.

4 p.m.

▪ **Introducing Umberto Saba**Guest speaker | *Federica Manzoni*

"My city that in every part is alive," wrote Umberto Saba of Trieste, his hometown but above all the city of his heart, perfect for his "thoughtful and shy" nature. Federica Manzoni, who has an elective affinity with Trieste, fleshes out the figure of the poet by starting with the place they share and then opening her gaze and analysis to recount his style, influences, and thought. In Taipei, a breath of that eastern air that has shaped – and continues to shape – in a unique and recognizable way some of the most beautiful pages of Italian literature.

5 p.m.

▪ **Introducing Natalia Ginzburg**Guest speaker | *Mario Barengi*

Paraphrasing the title of one of her best-known books, truly the "lexicon" of Natalia Ginzburg manages to become immediately "familiar" even to those who approach her works for the first time. A writer, playwright and translator, she combined literary and political commitment with passion and stubbornness, intervening in the debate about Italy in the second half of the 20th century with independence and lucidity. Mario Barengi – a path of research and in-depth study truly dedicated to the literature of the last century – says of her, and in Taipei brings back to life the climate of the time, restoring one of the absolute leading figures of the Italian cultural scene.

Thursday, February 6

10 a.m.

▪ **Italian companies talk events**

Italian exhibitors present their books and services

1 p.m.

▪ **When We are all Italians — A Taste of Italy**

3 p.m.

▪ **The Italian style crime novel**Guest speaker | *Gianni Biondillo*Moderator | *Ann-Yue Ni*

What are the ingredients for a

successful crime novel? What determines the transformation of a novel from self-contained to a volume in a series? Answering the question is Gianni Biondillo, one of the leading exponents of the made-in-Italy detective story, inventor of the character of Michele Ferraro, a somewhat melancholy-looking inspector with a sarcastic quip always at the ready. From *Per cosa si uccide* (2004) to *I cani del Barrio* (2022, both Guanda), the first and last volume of the successful series in which he is the protagonist, a foray into the dense plots of a genre loved by audiences of every latitude.

4 p.m.

▪ **Introducing Dante Alighieri**Guest speaker | *Luca Peyron*

The descent into the underworld, amid disquiet and fascination; the ascent of Purgatory, slow and arduous; and finally, the luminous peace of Paradise, alongside the souls of the righteous. The journey through the three realms that Dante Alighieri recounted in his *Commedia* has transcended centuries and generations of readers, becoming an immortal work that is a symbol of the highest literature, not for nothing called *Divine*. Reviewing it, Don Luca Peyron proposes here a reading conducted from a perspective that is not only literary, but also, and above all, spiritual.

5 p.m.

▪ **The Art of Storytelling**Guest speaker | *Laura Imai Messina*Moderator | *Mauretta Capuano*

If there is one art that Laura Imai Messina has honed over the course of more than twenty years in Japan, it is the art of storytelling: personal stories, great universal themes such as mourning, filial love, and the search for the self, transformed by the precision of her writing and the depth of her gaze as an Italian abroad into intense and delicate novels in which East and West meet. With her we embark on a journey to places that seem imaginary but are very real, from the craggy side of Mount Kujira to the island of Awashima – the setting of her latest novel, *Tutti gli indirizzi perduti* (Einaudi, 2024) – where simple lives, yet, in their own way, all extraordinary, meet.

Friday, February 7

1 p.m.

▪ **When We are all Italians — A Taste of Italy**

3 p.m.

▪ **Mediterranean Wellness**Guest speaker | *Eliana Liotta*Moderator | *Peini Beatrice Hsieh*

Not just diet, but Mediterranean life in its entirety – rhythms, physical and mental balance. In the age of haste and the terror of boredom, Eliana Liotta invites us to take the four breaks that, according to data from scientific literature, are the way to hope to live long and healthy lives. Starting with the

book *La vita non è una corsa* (La nave di Teseo, 2024), written in collaboration with the University and San Raffaele Hospital in Milan, the author, journalist and essayist, leads the audience to imagine life as a “*passeggiata*,” a typical Italian word for a pleasant, quiet and relaxed walk, where it is not only the point of arrival that counts, but what we do along the way that is important.

4 p.m.

▪ A stroll through the arts

Guest speaker | *Lorenzo Mattotti*

Moderators | *Stefano Misesti, Beni Chu*

Lorenzo Mattotti is a master of interweaving different styles and arts by putting his own art in dialogue with film, literature and even music. In his more than 50-year career, the international reach of his works has extended to every latitude. In Taiwan, Mattotti retraces the most significant stages of his artistic journey, from the first publication of *Fuochi* – received as an event in the comic world between the 1980s and 1990s – to the recent updated reissue (*#logosedizioni*, 2024), which never ceases to enchant and surprise.

5 p.m.

▪ Introducing Gianna Manzini

Guest speaker | *Laura Imai Messina*

Identity and memory, individual and collective emancipation, political commitment and moral attitude: the thematic boundaries explored by 20th century Italian writer Gianna Manzini,

are those within which we all move, even today. Inch by inch, Laura Imai Messina, a reader and connoisseur of her work, navigates and recounts them, and in sketching her figure represents all its modern relevance. The “standing portrait” – title of the memoir published by Mondadori in 1971 with which Manzini won the Campiello Prize – of a literary figure to be (re)discovered and explored further.

6 p.m.

▪ The importance of being called a historical thriller

Guest speaker | *Fabiano Massimi*

Moderator | *Ann-Yue Ni*

The contours that embrace the definition of “historical thriller,” a literary genre that has the virtue of fusing together two of the greatest passions of many readers puzzles and settings in bygone eras, are often nebulous. Telling us about the meaning and importance of the art he handles with authoritative mastery is Fabiano Massimi, who, starting with his latest work, *Le furie di Venezia* (Longanesi, 2024), thoroughly explores the dynamics and peculiarities of a narrative that - balanced between truth and fiction - dances between the folds of History, keeping us glued to the page and offering interesting, while somewhat veiled, perspectives and viewpoints on our current affairs.

Saturday, February 8

11 a.m.

▪ The Secret Ingredient

Guest speaker | *Beatrice Alemagna*

Moderator | *Tzu-Chun Chang*

“I make books for whoever wants them.” Beatrice Alemagna shapes wonder for readers young and old around the world. Whether accompanying the words of great authors such as Gianni Rodari, reworking classic fairy tales such as *Snow White*, or addressing themes such as growth and change, central to books such as *Best Thing Ever!* (2024) or *Pepper & Me* (2023, both Topipittori), irony and delicacy are never lacking. An alchemy that has many other ingredients and of which the author and illustrator offers a distillation, telling her readers about herself.

12 noon

▪ Introducing Umberto Eco

Guest speaker | *Fabiano Massimi*

Approaching the study of a figure like Umberto Eco is not easy; doing so while respecting his philosophy and intentions, even less so. Driven by a desire to delve deeper into one of his own authors of reference, Fabiano Massimi has successfully tried his hand at the undertaking, devoting care and attention to the account of the man and the work. With the same spirit he addresses the Fair audience, showing a face of Eco that is unprecedented and alive, different from the one already known, colored by the nuances that only a real and deep interest can imprint.

1 p.m.

▪ When We are all Italians — A Taste of Italy

2 p.m.

▪ When passion becomes art: Italian artisan panettone

Guest speaker | *Giovanna Chen, Shih-Chieh*

An expert baker, teacher at prestigious culinary schools in Asia and importer of high quality food ingredients from Italy, chef Giovanna is ambassador of Italian panettone in the world. She tells the fair audience about her passion for baking, which was born with the inheritance of a precious piece of mother dough from an Italian master and flourished proudly between tradition and innovation.

5 p.m.

▪ Italian Fairy Tales

Guest speaker | *Susanna Mattiangeli*

Moderator | *Tzu-Chun Chang*

Valiant knights, beautiful princesses, enchanted castles... when we think of fairy tales, it is a portrait with a rather defined frame that the common imagination returns to us. Yet, stories dedicated to children existed long before the Middle Ages and, more importantly, are alive today more than ever. Their storytelling has evolved into a diverse microcosm, populated by characters who are increasingly real and who don't live by the rules, in which even the classics survive through new forms, from Calvino's tales to the recent success of graphic novels. An example

of this is Red Bricks (Il Castoro, 2024) by Susanna Mattiangeli, who in Taipei reflects on this evolution by bringing her protagonists, capable, through all their authenticity, of going straight to the hearts of readers.

6 p.m.

▪ Introducing Pinocchio

Guest speaker | *Lorenzo Mattotti*

Moderator | *Rex How*

What happens when one of the cornerstones of children's literature meets one of the most representative illustrators of his generation? The answer lies in the pages of The Adventures of Pinocchio as seen through the eyes of Lorenzo Mattotti, who has given the puppet imagined by Carlo Collodi over a century ago new form and life. On the occasion of the translation of the illustrated version for the Chinese publishing market, a dialogue that breaks the boundaries of time and creativity, dense with magic.

Sunday, February 9

10 a.m. | Opening greetings from Taiwan Design Research Institute

▪ Design Day: Visions of Milan

Guest speaker | *Gianni Biondillo, Lorena Alessio*

The capital of art and design, fashion and finance, always on the move and always different, even in the eyes of those who have always lived and known it. Gianni Biondillo, who has measured

Milan step by step and for whom "every book is an excuse to cross it again," knows this well. In Taipei, as part of the Design Day, the city comes to life through the voice and gaze of someone who has literally drawn its profile, as a writer and as an architect, and tells of its artistic nuances, as rich as its many faces. Joining him is Lorena Alessio, an architect with international experience, curator of design for the Italian Pavilion and currently a professor at Feng Chia University in Taichung, holder of a style in which Art, Architecture and Technology constantly connect and confront each other.

11 a.m.

▪ Design Day: Taiwan Meets Italian Design

12 noon

▪ Introducing Gianni Rodari

Guest speaker | *Susanna Mattiangeli*

A significant anecdote about Gianni Rodari sees him wandering around the editorial rooms of the newspaper where he worked with a sign on his back saying "I am a classic." This was how the linguist Tullio De Mauro epitomized him, in Italo Calvino's definition of "classic." What made – and still makes – the most international of Italian writers and fabulists so universal? Answering the question is Susanna Mattiangeli, an author influenced and truly inspired by the work and figure of Rodari, the protagonist of a truly "fairytale-like" meeting.

1 p.m.

▪ When We are all Italians — A Taste of Italy

2 p.m.

▪ The harmony of two brains

Guest speaker | *Eliana Liotta*

It is said that we have two brains, one inside the skull and one in the gut, where there are millions of neurons. Our health also depends on the axis that connects them, on which run electrical impulses, hormones and substances produced by the microbiota, the communities of microorganisms we host in our bodies. Eliana Liotta, journalist and essayist, offers an up-and-down journey between head and belly, taking a cue from the most fascinating discoveries and books endorsed by doctors and scientists in the publishing series she directs, Scienza per la vita (Sonzogno): from La fioritura dei neuroni by Michela Matteoli, head of the Neuroscience program at Milan's Humanitas University Hospital, to L'intestino e le sue diete, by Silvio Danese, chief of Gastroenterology at Milan's San Raffaele Hospital.

3 p.m.

▪ There where stories are born

Guest speaker | *Davide Cali*

Moderator | *Rex How*

It is an extremely diverse readership that Davide Cali addresses. His language, sometimes made up of illustrations, sometimes of the words that accompany them, seems

universal, able to speak to children and adults with the same intense clarity. Now a well-known name in the Eastern publishing market, the author and cartoonist opens the door to his "imaginary world" and the stories that populate it, drawing an unstoppable creative parabola from his beginnings to his latest works (A volte, ancora and Cavalca la tigre, both Kite Edizioni, 2024).

PROTAGONISTS

BEATRICE ALEMAGNA



Born in Bologna in 1973, Beatrice Alemagna fulfilled her childhood dream by becoming one of the best known and most appreciated talents in the international panorama of children's literature. A worldwide award-winning author and illustrator, she has exhibited everywhere, from Paris to Lisbon, from Tokyo to Sao Paulo, and her name appears alongside some of the greats of literature - Apollinaire, Gianni Rodari and Roald Dahl, to name but a few - whose words she accompanies with her pencil strokes. The New York

Times and the New York Public Library twice included her in the list of the best illustrated books for children, first with *On a Magical Do-Nothing Day* (2016) and then with *Child of glass* (2019, both Topipittori), also translated and published in Chinese, along with many others. In 2006, in Taipei, her book *A Lion in Paris* published in France and then in Italy, in 2009, by Donzelli editore, won the Best Book Prize. Locus Publishing published in Taiwan *You Can't Kill Snow White* (Topipittori, 2021).

DAVIDE CALÌ

Born in Liestal in 1972, Davide Calì's career as an illustrator and writer began in 1994, in one of the temples of Italian graphic novels, the editorial office of "linus" magazine. He has enriched his experience over the years with new challenges, milestones and achievements, e.g. in literature, promoting reading, entertainment, and as a board game designer. Translated and published in more than 30 countries, the English version of his book *The Writer* (Kite Edizioni, 2019) - published in Taiwan by Locus Publishing, as well as many others - was included by the "New York Times" in the list of the 10 best illustrated books of 2022. In 2024, he was the focus of the exhibition "When Two Seas Meet in Bologna", a project celebrating the meeting of his creative universe with the island of Taiwan, organized by Locus Publishing and Accademia Drosselmeier under the patronage of the Bologna Children's Book Fair. His latest books include *A volte, ancora* and *Cavalca la tigre* (both Kite Edizioni, 2024).



ELIANA LIOTTA

A professional journalist and writer, Eliana Liotta combines scientific rigor and popular style in her books. Among many, examples is her book *La Dieta Smartfood* (Rizzoli, 2016) written in collaboration with the IEO-European Institute of Oncology in Milan, which has been translated in more than 20 countries including South Korea, *L'età non è uguale per tutti* (2018), with the Milan-based Humanitas University Hospital, *La rivolta della natura* (2020), which earned her the Montale Prize for non-fiction, and *Il cibo che ci salverà* (2021, all with *La nave di Teseo*), a reflection on the ecological change with regard to food from which she drew five television monologues aired on Rai 1. With *La nave di Teseo* in 2024 also came *La vita non è una corsa*, her latest book dedicated to the "four breaks that help improve health and youthfulness," together with the University and San Raffaele Hospital in Milan. Director of the monthly magazine "Benessere," writer for the "Corriere della Sera," she is a professor of Scientific Publishing at the Vita-Salute San Raffaele University in Milan. She created and directs the publishing series *Scienze per la vita* (Sonzogno), in which she has published 17 books by renowned scientists and doctors.



FABIANO MASSIMI

Author of the best-selling Italian novel at the 2019 London Book Fair (*L'angelo di Monaco*, Longanesi), Fabiano Massimi (Modena, 1977) is one of the leading names in historical thrillers. A librarian by training and profession, Lecturer in writing at the university's Holden School program and winner in 2017 of the Tedeschi Prize with *Il club Montecristo* (Mondadori), he collaborates with several Italian publishing houses as a reader, anthology editor, translator from English, and fiction and nonfiction editor. As a writer, his literary exploration of the 1930s continued, again for the publisher Longanesi, with *I demoni di Berlino* (2021), about the Reichstag fire of 1933; *Se esiste un perdono* (2022), set in 1938 Prague and dedicated to the "British Schindler" Nicholas Winton; and *Le furie di Venezia* (2024), an intrigue around the bond between Benito Mussolini and a woman who claims to be his first wife.



FEDERICA MANZON



Born in Pordenone in 1981, Federica Manzoni lives and works in Milan. In 2008, she published the narrative reportage *Come si dice addio* (Mondadori), followed in rapid succession by the novels *Di fama e di sventura* (Mondadori, 2011), *La nostalgia degli altri* (Feltrinelli, 2017) and *Il bosco del confine* (Aboca, 2020). Linked to Trieste 'by a love without reason', she is the editor of the anthology collection *I mari di Trieste* (Bompiani, 2015) and it is in Friuli-Venezia Giulia's capital city that she

sets *Alma* (Feltrinelli, 2024), her latest novel, winner of the 62nd edition of the prestigious Campiello Prize. Editorial director of Guanda from January 2023, she has a solid background in the publishing world behind her. The cornerstones of this are her extensive experience as an editor of Italian and foreign fiction at Mondadori and her teaching, and then management of teaching activities, at the creative writing school founded by Alessandro Baricco, the Holden in Turin.

GIANNI BIONDILLO



Born and raised in Milan, Gianni Biondillo (1966) made his debut in fiction in 2004, the year in which he created the character of Inspector Michele Ferraro: *Per cosa si uccide* (Guanda) is the first volume in the successful series of detective stories set in the suburbs of his hometown, which over the years has earned the author awards and recognition in Italy and abroad. Multifaceted and versatile in style and genre, Biondillo is also a playwright, editor and essayist, author

of children's books, theatre monologues and short stories, as well as combining his profession as a writer with that of architect. It is from here, from the fusion of his two chosen fields, that *Quello che noi non siamo* (Guanda, 2023) comes, a book that won the Bagutta Prize 2024 - Italy's oldest literary prize - investigating the disillusiones of brilliant young artists who misunderstood the advent of fascism as a new season for architecture.

LAURA IMAI MESSINA

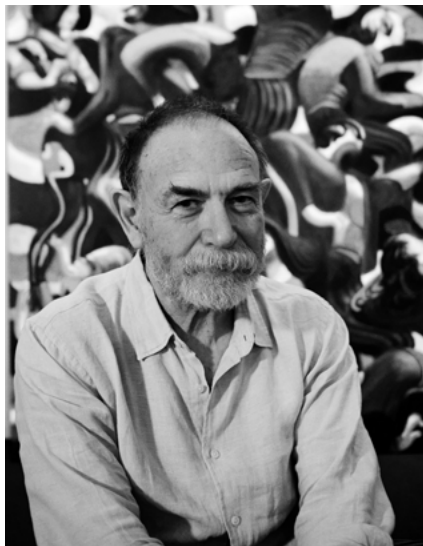


Italian by birth but Japanese by adoption, Laura Imai Messina (Rome, 1981) moved to Tokyo at the age of twenty-three to perfect her language and has not left it since. Here she completed and refined her studies, first at the? International Christian University and then at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, where she delved into the theme of materiality in Japanese and European literature. She contributes to numerous Italian

cultural inserts, and to Japanese radio and television station NHK. She is the author of novels, essays, and children's stories, including *The Phone Box at the Edge of the World* (Piemme, 2020), a best seller sold in more than 30 countries, *Il Giappone a colori* (2023), and *Tutti gli indirizzi perduti* (2024, both Einaudi), the latest book set in a small post office on Awashima Island that collects mail that is mailed but never delivered.

LORENZO MATTOTTI

Lorenzo Mattotti's creative spirit is multifaceted and ever-changing. Born in Brescia in 1954, he shot to fame as one of the founders of the Valvoline collective in 1991 with Fuochi (Granata Press), displaying a style that was already mature yet seeking innovation. Cover artist of magazines worldwide, from "The New Yorker" to "Le Monde", he illustrates classics moving skilfully between genres and eras, from Collodi's Pinocchio (Rizzoli, 1991) to the reworking of Poe's The Raven by Lou Reed (Einaudi, 2013). The 2000 Cannes Film Festival official poster, 2023 Venice official poster and animated film "La famosa invasione degli orsi in Sicilia" which he directed and was presented at the 2019 Cannes Film Festival in the "Un certain regard" selection, shine in the cinematic galaxy. In 2024, he created the guide illustration for Italy's participation as Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Buchmesse.



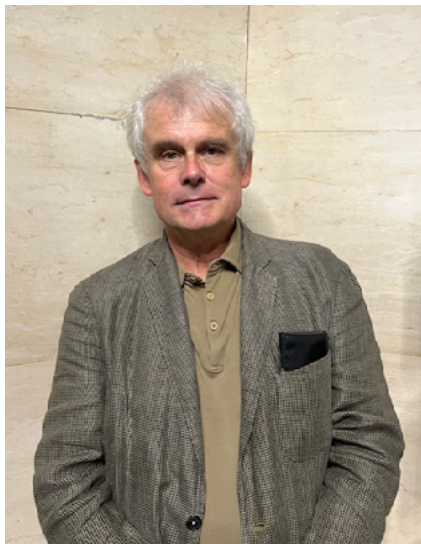
LUCA PEYRON

"Happily a priest, committed to the university, enthusiastic about new collaborations especially for young people." So Don Luca Peyron (Turin, 1973) writes of himself, previously a jurist and presently a Catholic priest in the Archdiocese of Turin, where he has worked for 20 years. A university chaplain with responsibilities at local, regional and national levels, he is coordinator of the Digital Apostolate Service - of which he is co-founder - a service among the first in the world created to "reflect, plan and act with respect to digital culture from a faith perspective." A professor of theology in several Italian universities, a passionate astrophile, he collaborates with magazines and newspapers such as "Avvenire" and "The Huffington Post," reflecting on issues related to technological transformation. Among his publications, Incarnazione digitale (Editrice Elledici, 2019), I diritti umani nella condizione digitale (Effatà, 2021) e Cieli sereni (San Paolo, 2023).



MARIO BARENGHI

In an article published in the online cultural magazine “Doppiozero” and entitled “Instructions for Imagination,” Mario Barengi at one point addresses the issue of teaching and asks, “Can literature be taught?”. Yes, and successfully, according to his biography. Born in Milan in 1956, he teaches Contemporary Italian Literature at the University of Milan Bicocca where he works on fiction, memoir and literary theory. His research has led him to investigate the figures of Italo Calvino and Primo Levi, with particular attention and to whom he has dedicated essays and in-depth studies. These include the two monographs *Italo Calvino, le linee e i margini* (2007) and *Calvino. Profili di storia letteraria* (2009, both Il Mulino), the recent *Calvino politeista* (Carocci, 2024), a collection of essays largely linked to the occasion of the centenary of the writer's birth, and the bilingual volume *Perché crediamo a Primo Levi?/Why Do We Believe Primo Levi?* (Einaudi, 2013). His works also include *Poetici primati* (Quodlibet, 2020) and *In extremis* (Carocci, 2023), which explores the funeral theme in twentieth-century Italian literature.



SUSANNA MATTIANGELI

Along with Gianni Rodari, Italo Calvino is one of the authors who has most influenced the work of Susanna Mattiangeli (Rome, 1971), an author, translator, and scriptwriter of comics for children and young people, who for years has been designing workshops on narrative techniques in collaboration with schools, libraries and bookstores. A finalist at the Premio Strega Ragazze e Ragazzi with *I numeri felici* (Vànvare Edizioni, 2007), winner of the Andersen Award as “Best Writer” for her ability to “render in a fitting way the complexity of thought and feeling of the youngest children,” in 2021 she was chosen as the Italian Children's Laureate 2022-2024. Among her many books, *Day on the Beach* (Topipittori, 2018) was published by Locus Publishing for the Taiwanese market, while the bestselling HB Pencil series (*Il Castoro*, 2018), translated in more than 10 countries, was recently acquired by Mainland China.



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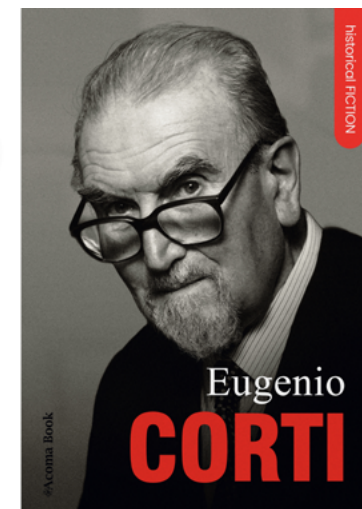
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WHO –

DACO is an Italian publisher and packager. We design and create innovative children's books for curious young readers aged 0 to 12, with a special focus on board books. Established in 2020, thanks to our participation in major international fairs, we have quickly become a solid presence, recognized worldwide for our mission and the quality of our products.

WHAT –

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Founded in 1984, Erickson is leader in Italy in the fields of education, teaching, learning disorders, special needs/inclusion, applied and clinical psychology, social work, and welfare. Today, our catalogue counts more than 2,000 titles, dealing with the integration of people with disabilities, learning difficulties, remediation and support, social problems, and issues related to adolescence.

We publish scientifically based, innovative, and creative educational extracurricular materials, such as teachers' and professionals' resources, methodological and self-training guides, students' workbooks, software, tools, and board games promoting learning by playing. We target children aged 3 to 15, as well as parents, teachers, learning professionals, and social workers.



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IT Publishing is a meta-intermediary platform that orchestrates relationships between publishers, agents, distributors, and other industry stakeholders in the rights trading ecosystem. Through its integrated Catalogo and Vetrina systems, it enables strategic rights management and cultural value creation beyond traditional market boundaries. The platform enhances existing intermediation processes while fostering new forms of collaboration and value creation throughout the publishing chain. IT Publishing combines technological infrastructure with deep cultural understanding to facilitate sustainable market development and content valorization.

CATALOGO

Catalogo offers a vibrant showcase of Italian publishing, with a special focus on independent publishers. Active at international book fairs, it serves as a bridge between the rich diversity of Italian works and the global publishing landscape. With careful curation and contextual presentation, Catalogo helps international professionals discover and engage with Italy's distinctive literary and cultural production.



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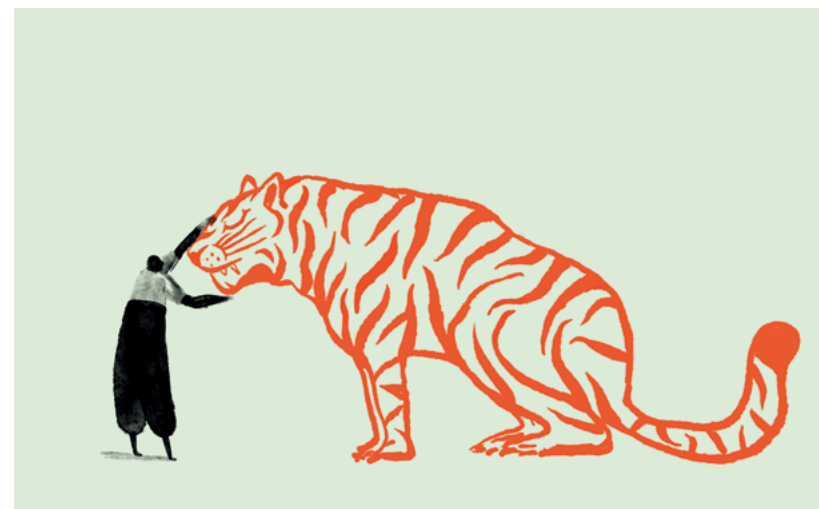
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Kite Edizioni is an independent Italian publishing house specialized in high-quality picture books for all ages. We are dedicated to encouraging aesthetic and literary experience and offering a fresh perspective on a diverse and interesting range of styles from talented artists from all around the world. We believe high-quality picture books can be an opportunity to develop cultural and emotional growth among readers of all ages. Our aim is to produce picture books which can contribute to this challenge. Most of our catalogue is our own creation, and many titles have been sold and translated into foreign languages.



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Reggio Children was born in 1994 to promote and safeguard the experience of Reggio Emilia's Municipal Infant-Toddler Centers & Preschools, renowned throughout the world as the Reggio Emilia Approach.

Our goals are to promote children's universal right to quality education and to organize exchanges between our cities and schools around the world. Along with activities such as professional development, exhibitions, consultancy, ateliers, and research, we publish books and audiovisuals from our schools, giving voice to children's knowledge and thoughts, translated into 26 languages.



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Tomolo Edigio Edizioni is a small Italian publishing house specializing in illustrated children's books. Our children's book series are intended to teach values like love, friendship, and respect, and to offer children the opportunity to connect with other cultures.

Our illustrated books are not only aimed at children. We have a hardcover book series, Le Tomoleggende, intended for adults and collectors or, more generally, people who love beautiful, fairy, and old-style illustrations. Each book focuses on local legends and investigates Italian and foreign folklore. We recently expanded our catalogue, which now includes fiction for adults (romance, fantasy, thriller).

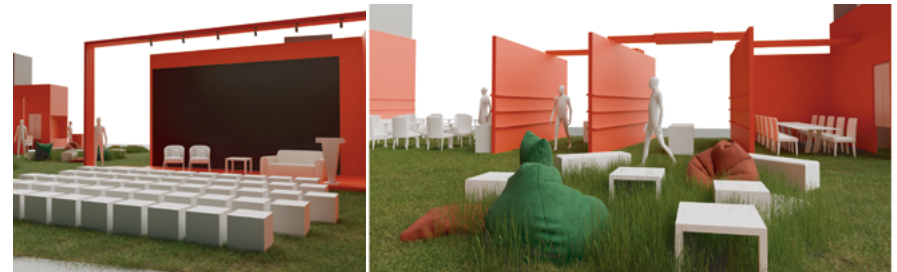


ZOOlibri is an Italian independent publishing house focused on the production of picture books for children with amazing illustrations. After almost 25 years, the catalogue counts more than 150 titles that share the same lively, fresh, and dynamic character. ZOOlibri has always attended book fairs such as Bologna, Frankfurt, Guadalajara, Beijing, Shanghai, Seoul, and now Taipei to promote the catalogue, which features titles translated worldwide.



ARCHITECTURE DESIGN

Modern Interpretation Of An Italian Alley



The 400 sqm Italian Pavilion is designed as the heart of a small Italian city, fostering social interaction through a variety of activities. Visitors can explore exhibitions, discover offerings from Italian publishers, attend book presentations, and participate in engaging events, all in a relaxed and inviting atmosphere.

The pavilion offers a tranquil space where people can unwind—whether by lounging on the grass, reading a book, or simply taking a break. Activities are arranged along a linear open space, creating a dynamic environment that encourages visitors to stroll and engage as part of the lively scenery.

Key features of the pavilion include the IBBY Choice 2024 exhibition, the BCBF children's area, meeting and conference rooms, a reception area, an Eslite corner, and a dedicated publishers' zone. These spaces are oriented toward the open area, which is furnished with cushions and small tables on artificial grass, enhancing the informal and welcoming vibe.

The artificial grass features two heights: the higher level forms four circular zones equipped with cushions, benches, and tables, inviting visitors to linger and enjoy the pavilion's ambiance. This green, linear space also functions as a pathway, connecting different areas while providing spots to rest, resembling a modern interpretation of an Italian alley.

The pavilion's aesthetic is a vivid expression of Italian identity, with walls in red, artificial grass in green, and furniture in white—evoking the colors of the Italian flag. Coordinated furnishings contribute to a cohesive visual theme, while wall signage clearly marks different areas, ensuring easy navigation.

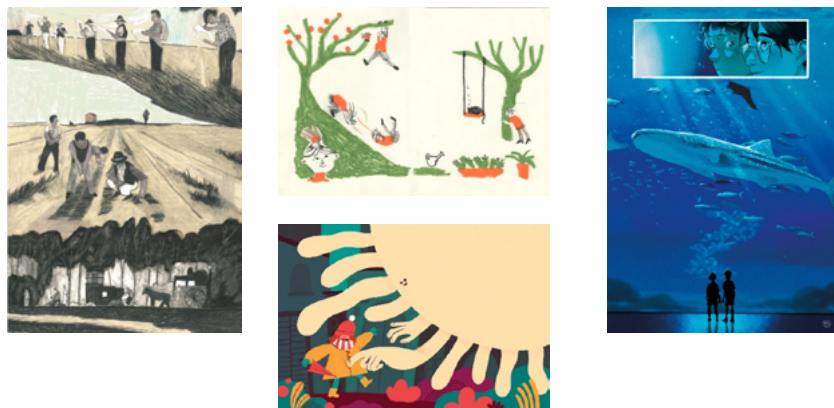
When the pavilion is crowded with activity, the conference area can expand onto the artificial grass, accommodating more participants and enhancing visibility for events.

The design of the Italian Pavilion is the vision of architect Lorena Alessio.



EXHIBITIONS

Pencils In Talented Young Hands



Curated by Drosselmeier Academy, organized by Bologna Children's Book Fair, in collaboration with AIE - Italian Publishers Association.

In 1985 Lorenzo Mattotti produced two Pinocchio illustrations for the exhibition "Doctor Pencil & Mr China: Old Fictions and New Illustrators" at the Modern Art Gallery in Bologna. It was a time of great renewal in the world of comics and Mattotti was a leading exponent, yet Italy seemed unable to recognise his talents back then. Many migrated and there was even talk of an artistic "brain drain". The publisher Albin Michel welcomed Lorenzo Mattotti as he did when he published Piero Bernardini's Pinocchio in the 1930s.

Then came Europe, the art schools

opened up to foreign students and Italians started to attend foreign schools. These Italians are good, as are the teachers who are professionals from the sector that they encounter in Urbino, Milan, Macerata, Bolzano and Florence.

The young talents that we present here are, in our opinion, representative of this new reality, the result of a cosmopolitan openness and the new role of independent publishers that purposefully engage with the schools and "workshops" where young illustrators are honing their skills. Bologna and its Academy of Fine Arts



has become a destination for many young Italians and foreigners. The city of Florence also offers interesting training opportunities, while numerous Italian cities host branches of the International School of Comics.

Alongside these stand the well-established institutions: ISIA (Higher Institute for Artistic Industries) in Urbino, Mimas-ter in Milan and Ars in Fabula in Macerata. Nowadays, talented Italian illustrators are present in all markets, and after his posters for Cannes and Venice, our very own Lorenzo Mattotti has rightly landed in Frankfurt.

Who are the thirty artists we are presenting here? Young women and men who have recently found their place within a publishing industry that emphasises the importance of illustration and the language of comics, those who have chosen large backgrounds that need walls visible to all, or others who move between new technologies and self-production. Time will be the judge of their successes and accomplishments.

For now, we have observed them, chosen them, and bet on their talent.

IBBY Italia Choice 2024

The individuals and organizations that adhere to IBBY believe that access to stories and good books for children contributes to harmonious growth and the development of the ability to view the world with a broad, critical, and welcoming perspective. For this reason, the work of IBBY in general and IBBY Italy specifically aims to create the conditions that allow every girl and boy to access good books. The selection of high-quality Italian books is precisely in this spirit; it seeks to be a tool for all those adults who, in any capacity, are engaged in promoting reading as a democratic process. For this third edition, a group of professionals has been involved in the selection process, reading, evaluating, and assessing the publishing output of 2023 and the first six months of 2024. In this effort to promote Italian children's publishing, IBBY Italy is supported by AIE (Italian Publishers Association) and the Bologna Children's Book Fair, which continue to endorse this publication and facilitate the circulation of the bibliographic exhibition at various international publishing fairs.

Franco Fornaroli
IBBY Italia President

