

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM BIB 2025

Saturday, October 4, 2025 – Sunday, October 5, 2025

Theme:

“How has the Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava influenced the form of a picture book for children and youth in the world during the 60 years of its existence? And what is the meaning and sense of the BIB today?”

The BIB Symposium was established in 1983 as an integral part of the Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava, which has been held since 1967. The impetus for its creation was the growing need to create a space for deeper professional discussion on current topics, trends, challenges, and developments in the field of illustration for children and young people, while also reflecting on the social, educational, and cultural aspects of this specific form of artistic expression in a global context.

From its inception, the symposium has been an international event that brings together renowned illustrators, art theorists, curators, educators, publishers, cultural workers, and experts from prestigious institutions, as well as young artists and students from various countries around the world, creating a stimulating environment for intergenerational dialogue and professional growth. It takes place after the official opening ceremony and the announcement of the competition results by an international jury and usually lasts two days. The aim of the symposium is to create an international platform for the exchange of experience and professional knowledge, to promote interdisciplinary cooperation, and to stimulate discussion on the aesthetic, cultural, social, and educational aspects of illustration. Each year, the symposium has a main theme that responds to current events in the field of illustration and visual communication. The contributions presented at the symposium cover a wide range of topics – from artistic approaches to illustration, through new technological possibilities for creation, to the role of illustration in shaping child readers and cultural identity. Special attention is often paid to issues of diversity, visual literacy, the ecological dimension of creation, and the development of illustration in different cultural and geographical areas of the world.

The BIB symposium thus contributes to building bridges between art, literature, and society, confirming the importance of illustration as an independent artistic genre with a significant cultural and educational impact and reach, and strengthening Bratislava's position as a center of world illustration.

List of names of people whose contributions will be presented at this year's symposium:

Aggeliki Gianikopoulou, *Greece*

Akoss Ofori Mensah, *Ghana*

Anastasia Arkhipova, *Russia*

Antoni Tassies Penella, *Spain*

Elis Vance, *USA*

Fatemeh (Parisa) Behabadi, *Iran*

Fred Minn, *Republic of Korea*

Graça Lima, *Brazil*

Chrysogonus Siddha Malilang, *Sweden*

Igor Piačka, *Slovakia*

Liz Page, *Switzerland*

Marija Ristić, *Serbia*

Mingzhou Zhang, *China*

Murti Bunanta, *Indonesia*

Olga Majcen Linn, *Croatia*

Olga Mäeots, *Russia*

Park Hyun-min, *Republic of Korea*

Steffen Larsen, *Denmark*

Valerie Coghlan, *Ireland*

