

Title: THE ILLUSTRATOR OLYMPUS, Berlin
Subtitle: The laureates of the highest awards of the Biennial of Illustration Bratislava over the past fifty years
Period: 23 November 2016 – 31 January 2017
Place: Japanese-German Centre, Berlin (DE)
Organizers: BIBIANA, International House of Art for Children, Bratislava (SK)
Japanese-German Centre, Berlin (DE)
Slovak Institute in Berlin (DE)

Synopsis:

The exhibition presents works of artists who won the highest awards of the Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB) in the half-century retrospective of this international event.

BIB is an international competition of original illustrations to children's books that has been held under the auspices of UNESCO and the International Boards on Books for Young People (IBBY) with support from the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic since 1967. BIBIANA, the international house of art for children based in Bratislava is its chief organizer. In the global context, BIB is a unique non-commercial event in the field of illustration for children. In the previous 25 editions of the biennial, 7,574 illustrators from 105 countries have presented their 59,860 original illustrations to almost 10,000 books. The original illustrations are evaluated by BIB's International Jury who grants 11 prestigious awards, namely the Grand Prix BIB (1), BIB Golden Apples (5) and BIB Plaques (5). In addition to these main prizes, the Honorary Mention to Publishers, the Children's Jury Award and the Mayor of the Capital City Bratislava Award are granted as well.

This exhibition presents the winners of the two highest BIB awards, Grand Prix BIB and BIB Golden Apples, from the beginnings of the biennial up to the most recent BIB edition. They include works by reputed illustrators as well as by young starting artists who won the jury's recognition with their unconventional and innovative approaches.

Visitors are invited to browse through a collection of nearly 150 illustrated books for children and youth coming from 36 countries provided by the BIBIANA Library in Bratislava. This unique book collection offers an opportunity to compare various illustrative, graphical and publishing approaches and traditions in the field of world books for children. The collection is interesting also in linguistic terms since besides books in major world languages it also includes texts e.g. in the Catalan, Flemish, Estonian, Japanese, Thai and Persian languages.

The book collection is accompanied by the set of 25 book illustrations that brought their authors the supreme prize, Grand Prix, providing visitors with a comprehensive view of illustration – not only as an art work on its own but as an integral part of the book product as well.

The exhibition is organized as a travelling event that previously had not been open to such a large audience as over the next two years it will successively visit 26 libraries, galleries and other cultural institutions in all Slovak regions and neighbouring countries.