

# A Childlike Heart Across the World – A Grand Illustration Extravaganza for BIB's 60th Anniversary Lands at Shanghai Children's Art Library

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When the world's top illustration art meets childlike innocence, a three-month cultural feast will kick off at the Shanghai Children's Library! On February 9th, the "**Childlike Heart Across the World - BIB in China 60 Years**" themed reading event warmly opened. The Shanghai Children's Library, together with the Tree of Life Culture Promotion Center, BIB in China, and China Peace Press, will use immersive exhibitions, lectures by renowned experts, cross-disciplinary dialogues, and fun interactive activities to build a bridge connecting Chinese and foreign cultures for children, allowing the seeds of aesthetic education to quietly sprout in reading time.



## I. Thematic Exhibition: Childlike Innocence Across the World ——BIB 60th Anniversary China Tour

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### Exhibition Updates:

A collection of 60 years of classic illustrations, all in one place.



**The Bratislava International Biennial of Illustration (BIB)**, the world's oldest and largest non-commercial illustration exhibition, is co-organized by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and UNESCO, and is held every two years. Since its inception, the BIB has selected over 400 outstanding works from more than 100,000 submissions from 114 countries worldwide, awarding prizes to each. This year, the BIB makes its debut in China under the name "BIB China," showcasing award-winning works by 29 BIB Grand Prize illustrators and 8 Chinese illustrators, presenting a visual feast spanning 60 years.



**Exhibition Dates:** February 9, 2026 – May 10, 2026

**Exhibition Locations:** Grand staircase on the first and second floors of Changfeng Pavilion, and children's lending area on the third floor.

**Target audience:** Library visitors

**How to participate:** All readers can participate upon arrival at the library.

**For inquiries, please call:** 31063808-8853

Stepping into Changfeng Hall is like entering a "World Picture Book Art Museum." Ascending the grand staircase on the first floor, works from the BIB Award winners (1967-2025) are displayed chronologically, from the fantastical universe of \*The Book of Questions\* to the folk legend of \*The Daughter of the Divine Bird\*, every stroke of color embodies artistic craftsmanship spanning centuries. On the third floor, the "Enjoy the World" section showcases award-winning works by eight Chinese illustrators: Cai Gao's poetic childlike innocence, Zhu Chengliang's folk-inspired charm, and Hei Mi's whimsical textures, creating a vibrant collision between Eastern aesthetics and modern creativity. The third-floor "Master Bookstore" and H-bookshelf exhibition area display award-winning picture books and themed collections. Children's fingertips brush against the pages, planting seeds of aesthetic education in the fusion of world art and Chinese stories, allowing imagination and cultural perspective to grow together.

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#### New Year Interaction:

"The Joy of Drawing in the Year of the Horse: Tracing the Footsteps of Reading"

To ensure children have more fun while visiting the exhibition, the event features a special "**Year of the Horse Drawing Fun & Reading Tracing**" activity, inviting you to enjoy the Spring Festival.

**Event Period:** February 9, 2026 – May 10, 2026

**Participation Location:** Service Desk, 3rd Floor, Changfeng Pavilion

**Target audience:** Families with children aged 6-16

**How to participate:** Simply visit the venue to participate.

**For inquiries, please call:** 31063808-8853

**For readers of all ages who want to participate in the challenge, here's the important part!**

- ① Receive a "Year of the Horse Creative Card" and freely express your creativity around the outline of a horse, filling it with color and imagination.
- ② After completing your work, find a book related to "horses" and write down your new understanding of horses. Enjoy the dual joy of reading and creating amidst the festive atmosphere of the New Year.
- ③ Share your creations on social media to receive a special BIB Year of the Horse sticker. Limited quantities available, first come, first served!

## II. Lecture Discussion: Unlocking the Code of Chinese Stories and Imagination

### Part 1: The Story Behind the Story

On the afternoon of February 23rd, Zhang Mingzhou, a member of the Executive Committee of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), will share the stage with Zhu Chengliang, winner of the BIB Golden Apple Award. Mr. Zhu will share the "stories behind the stories" of his works such as \*Don't Let the Sun Fall Down\*, \*Reunion\*, and \*Spring in the Leaves\*, revealing the secrets to integrating traditional folk art with picture book creation. After the lecture (4:00-4:30 PM), there will be an autograph session at the front desk of the auditorium. Don't miss it if you love Mr. Zhu! (No appointment is needed for the autograph session; please queue in an orderly manner.)

**Event Time:** February 23, 2026 (the seventh day of the first lunar month), 14:00-16:30

**Event Location:** Multifunctional Auditorium, 1st Floor, Building B, Changfeng Hall

**Target audience:** Families with children aged 6-16, and children's book enthusiasts

**How to participate:** Online reservation

### **Appointment channel for families with children aged 6-16**

(Opens promptly at 15:00 on February 13th)

### **Adult reservation channel**

**For inquiries, please call:** 31063808-8853

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### **Zhang Mingzhou**

Member of the Executive Committee of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) (2024-2026), former President of IBBY (2018-2022), member of the Inclusive Publishing and Literacy Committee of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), member of the Central Publishing and Media Committee of the China Association for Promoting Democracy,

executive director of the China Publishers Association, and founding chairman of the Life Tree Culture Promotion Center.

### Zhu Chengliang



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Winner of the Golden Apple Award at the 27th (2019) Bratislava International Biennial of Illustration (BIB), for the work "Don't Let the Sun Fall Down". Born in Shanghai in 1948, she is a Chinese picture book author and a member of the China Artists Association. She graduated from the Oil Painting Department of Nanjing University of the Arts and has been deeply involved in the integration of traditional folk art and picture book creation. Her representative works include "Reunion", "Don't Let the Sun Fall Down", "The Twinkling Rabbit Lantern", "Old Grandpa's Grandpa's Tale" and "The Wind". In 2011, "Reunion" won the first China Zilai

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#### Don't Let the Sun Fall Down

Guo Zhenyuan (Text)

Zhu Chengliang (pictured)

Publisher: China Peace Press

Location of collection: Changfeng Children's Lending Room (3F)

Changfeng Children's Reading Room (2F)

Southwest Early Childhood Department

Mibao Cloud Study

Call number: I287.8/0454

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### Part Two: Childhood and Imagination

On the afternoon of April 26th, Susanna Jarosova (Slovakia), Chair of the BIB International Committee, Paloma Valdivia (Chile), BIB Grand Prize winner, will join Zhang Mingzhou and Heimi, winner of the BIB Golden Apple Award, for a cross-disciplinary dialogue between top illustrators from China and abroad. The guests will delve into the imaginative secrets of children's picture book creation, unlocking the untold creative stories behind these books. A signing session will conclude the lecture, offering you a chance to experience the brilliance of these international illustrators up close.

**Event Time:** April 26, 2026, 14:00-16:30

**Event Location:** Multifunctional Auditorium, 1st Floor, Building B, Changfeng Hall

**Target audience:** Families with children aged 6-16, and children's book enthusiasts

**How to participate:** Online reservation. Please follow the Shanghai Children's Library WeChat official account.

**For inquiries, please call:** 31063808-8853

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**Susanna Yarosova**  
**(Zuzana Jarošová)**



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A Slovakian scholar, Commissioner General of Bratislava (BIB), and Chairman of the International Committee. Adhering to the concept that "picture books are children's first art museum," he took over the responsibility of organizing the Bratislava International Biennial of Illustrations (BIB) from its founder, Dušan Rohr, in 2005. He has secured sponsorship and support for the BIB from UNESCO and the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), fostered the growth of illustrators from developing countries, established the "BIB-UNESCO" exhibition, and contributed to the global influence of the BIB, the world's largest

### **Paloma Valdivia (Paloma Valdivia)**



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Paloma Paloma is a renowned Chilean illustrator, author, and publisher, born in Santiago, Chile in 1978. She graduated from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile with a degree in design, and later obtained a postgraduate diploma in creative illustration from the EINA School of Design and Art in Barcelona, Spain. She then returned to the Pontifical University of Chile to pursue studies in anthropology and audiovisual communication. To date, Paloma has published over 30 books, which have been translated into 15 languages. She is passionate about books, stories, and images, with a particular fondness for the theme of "childhood" – a world of all

### **Zhang Mingzhou**

Member of the Executive Committee of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) (2024-2026), former President of IBBY (2018-2022), member of the Inclusive Publishing and Literacy Committee of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), member of the Central Publishing and Media Committee of the China Association for Promoting Democracy, executive director of the China Publishers Association, and founding chairman of the Life Tree Culture Promotion Center.

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A picture book creator, illustrator, and printmaker. Her first picture book, *\*Braids\**, published in 2015, won the Golden Apple Award at the 25th Bratislava International Biennial of Illustrations (BIB), the 2016 Chen Bochui International Children's Literature Award (Picture Book), and was selected as one of the Top 10 Original Picture Books of 2015. Her 2019 book, *\*The Pallas's Cat Who Wants Everything\**, won the Gold Award at the 2018 Golden Pinwheel International Young Illustrators Competition (Domestic), the Gold Award in the Picture Book Category at the 3rd ZOOA Awards, the Purple Island Award at the 2021 NAMI Chinese International Picture Book

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### ***Book of questions***

#### **(The Book of Questions)**

Pablo Neruda (author)

Paloma Valdivia (illustrator)

Sarah Paulson (translator)

Publisher: Enchanted Lion Books

Location of collection: Changfeng Children's Lending Room (3F)

Nanxi Primary and Secondary Schools

Call number: I784.82/N454/c.3

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## III. Using Horses as a Medium: Appreciating Original Works and Illustrating the World

To make this cultural feast even more enriching, the Shanghai Children's Library has also carefully planned a series of in-library activities, allowing children to experience the charm of art through reading

and to stimulate their imaginative potential through interaction.

On the morning of February 17th, the Children's Educational Center on the second floor of Changfeng Museum will host a "Little Seed Storytelling Session," featuring the picture book "The Painter Who Painted a Blue Horse," a book that fosters imagination and creativity. Breaking free from the constraints of realistic colors, the book depicts whimsical images such as a blue horse and a green lion, making it an excellent art primer for stimulating children's imagination of color and shape. This event is open to families with children aged 3-4. Please follow our WeChat official account to register.

From February 9th to April 19th, the original works exhibition area on the second floor of the Changfeng Pavilion will host a themed exhibition entitled "Original Works Going Global: Family Reunions Every Year – Heartwarming Family Stories Around the World." The exhibition focuses on "Reunion," winner of the inaugural Feng Zikai Children's Picture Book Award and selected as one of the New York Times' Best Children's Picture Books of the Year. Illustrated by Zhu Chengliang and written by Yu Liqiong, this book depicts heartwarming family scenes against the backdrop of the Spring Festival, and its copyright has been sold to the UK, France, Japan, South Korea, and other countries. The exhibition not only showcases the story of the original picture book but also presents Spring Festival symbols and cultural imagery, guiding readers to decipher the emotional code of Chinese family affection.

From March 2nd to March 31st, the bookshelves surrounding the service desk on the first floor of the Changfeng Library will host the "Pony Pages: English Stories for the Year of the Horse" English book exhibition. Librarians have carefully selected horse-related English books; turning the pages, one can almost hear the clatter of hooves and feel the fresh scent of grass. Young readers can browse freely here, experiencing the true meaning of courage, friendship, and freedom through English stories.

From January 26 to March 31, the "Gallopig Horses and Childlike Innocence: Painting Dreams of the East" New Year Picture Book Exhibition will be held simultaneously in the art exhibition area on the fourth floor of Changfeng Hall and the outdoor exhibition area of Nanxi Hall (click the link for details). To celebrate the Lunar New Year of the Horse, the exhibition draws inspiration from six original Chinese picture books, transforming six lively horses into companions for children's growth. The exhibition is cleverly integrated into the library's reading space, allowing children to experience the dual nourishment of reading and aesthetic education as they pause and turn the pages.

## **Conclusion**

For 60 years, the BIB International Biennial of Illustrations has remained a vital link connecting world cultures. This year, it brings top-tier illustrations from around the globe to Shanghai, reaching out to

children. Here, children can encounter masterpieces from various countries and regions, and appreciate the unique charm of original Chinese picture books such as "Reunion" and "Braids," broadening their horizons through the influence of diverse cultures. They can create their own personalized cards, igniting their creative passion through fun interactions; listen to presentations from international masters, feeling the original intention and power of picture book creation, and letting their imaginations soar freely.

This winter break, why not take your children to the Shanghai Children's Library for a journey of shared childhood dreams that transcends the world? Experience beauty in the world of illustration, grow through cultural exchange, let your childlike wonder transcend borders, and let passion illuminate your moments.

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Tree of Life Culture Promotion Center  
BIB in China  
China Peace Publishing House

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(Sorted alphabetically by the first letter of the pinyin)

Boji Tianjuan  
Yangtze River Children's Publishing House  
Electronic Industry Press  
Hebei Children's Publishing House  
Relay Publishing House  
Shandong Education Press  
Tiantian Publishing House  
New Century Press  
Zhejiang Children's Publishing House

### Kind tips

1. Opening hours: 9:00-17:00 daily (groups are only accepted on Monday mornings, and the library is open as usual in the afternoons); statutory holidays are subject to the notice issued before the end of the term.
2. If your library card has any overdue records and you are unable to borrow books, please go to the library's service desk during opening hours to resolve the issue. The overdue fee is 0.2 yuan per book per day. Please remember to return books on time.

