

Children's books

A world of illustration

The best British children's illustrators in the Bratislava awards – in pictures

Illustrator Piet Grobler introduces the 15 artists which have been chosen to represent the UK in one of the most famous children's books illustration awards in the world: the Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (or BIB for short) 2015. The UK have won only once, in 1995

Piet Grobler

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This gallery showcases some of the best illustrators working in the UK today, all have been selected by IBBY UK and The International Centre of the Picture Book in Society to represent the UK at the Biennial of Illustrations in Bratislava (BIB) 2015.

We start with **Olivia Gill**: Where my Wellies Take Me (with words by Michael Morpurgo, published by Templar).

This Kate Greenaway medal shortlisted book introduces a fresh visual language that compliments Michael Morpurgo's anthology of poems on countryside memories

Illustration: Olivia Gill

Angela Barrett The Most Wonderful Thing in The World (with words by Vivian French, Walker)



Angela Barrett is among the most prominent and best known British picture book illustrators over the last three decades. Her lyrical illustrations have won many awards and her latest book tells a wonderful romantic-realistic fairy tale

Illustration: Angela Barrett, Walker Books

Laura Carlin A world of your Own (published by Phaidon Press)



Awarded book illustrator, guest lecturer and international commercial illustrator, Laura Carlin celebrates creativity in this vibrant and quirky book that invites young readers to create their own worlds

Illustration: Laura Carlin



Alexis Deacon Jim's Lion (with words by Russell Hoban, published by Walker Books)

This cross-over form between the graphic novel and picture book, tells the story of a boy escaping the confines of his hospital bed on the back of a lion. It is challenging, trendsetting and brilliant: Alexis Deacon at his best.

Just a little more about the award previous Grand Prix winners include Nikolai Popov (Russia), Klaus Ensikat (Germany) and Dusan Kallay (Slovakia). John Rowe (UK) in 1995, was the only winner ever from an English speaking country

Illustration: Alexis Deacon



Jo Empson Rabbityness (published by Child's Play) is a book encouraging creativity – and its legacy. Jo Empson has created such a happy and wacky book in vibrant colours

Illustration: Jo Empson

Jo Empson Never Ever (published by Child's Play).

A second book entered by Jo Empson, this is simply packed full of humour and playfulness.

The Grand Prix (big prize) winner of the BIB receives \$3000 and there are five Golden Apple winners (who win \$1500) and five Bronze Plaque winners (who win



\$1000). All the participants are included in a gorgeous catalogue includes all the entries, so they are winners in some way!

Illustration: Jo Empson

William Grill Shackleton's journey (published by Flying Eye Books).

This brilliant account of a voyage to Antarctica straddles forms and genres: fiction, non-fiction, graphic novel, picture book, diary, sketchbook... it's bound to become a classic. William Grill is a young graduate from Falmouth University, so definitely one to watch

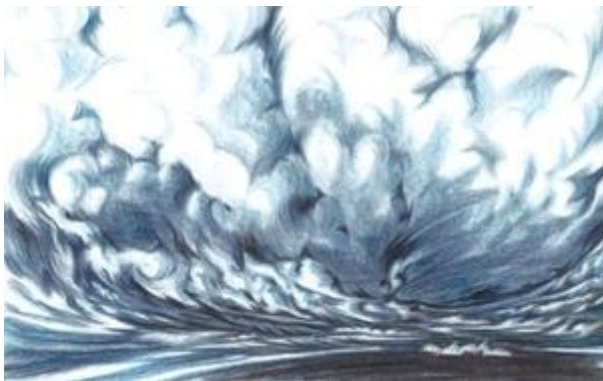


Illustration: William Grill

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Chris Haughton Shh! We have a Plan (published by Walker Books)

Chris Haughton delights children as well as adult collectors of books that excel in illustration and design. The glowing, deep colours and highly stylized yet convincing characters create a visual language that claims a real presence on the contemporary picture book scene



Illustration: Chris Haughton

Emily Hughes Wild (published by Flying Eye Books)

A little girl grows up with animals in the wild, but is discovered and taken to "civilization". She hates it, as it is simply not natural to her. Serious questions are posed in wonderful, wild and happy illustrations with a retro feel



Illustration: Emily Hughes



• Jim Kay A Monster Calls (with words by Patrick Ness, published by Walker Books)

Jim Kay and Patrick Ness created a book for older readers demonstrating a brilliant synergy of written and pictorial narrative. It is haunting and utterly beautiful at the same time – and 2014’s winner of both the Greenaway and Carnegie medals

Illustration: Jim Kay



• Dave McKean Mouse, bird, snake, wolf (with words by David Almond, published by Walker Books)

Dave McKean, internationally acclaimed comic artist and picture book illustrator and creator of Arkham Asylum and The Wolves in the Walls, made this brilliant contemporary creation tale with David Almond. It challenges the boundaries of forms and genres and ages of readership

Illustration: Dave McKean



Alice Melvin Counting birds (published by Tate Publishing)

A Best New Illustration Award (Booktrust) – winner, this beautiful counting book is testament to Alice Melvin’s screen print designs, earning her international acclaim and following

Photograph: Alice Melvin



Levi Pinfold Black Dog and Greenling (published by Templar)

Black dog earned Levi Pinfold several awards, amongst others, the Kate Greenaway medal. It is a story about fear – illustrated in exquisite realism with an eerie undertone

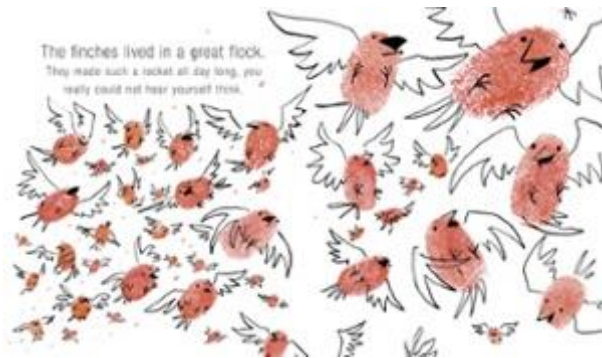
Photograph: Levi Pinfold



Yu Rong Smoke (published by 21st Century Publishing House, Beijing)

Yu Rong immigrated from China and studied illustration at the Royal Academy of Art in London. This utterly charming, lovely and amusing book about the Fatty and Thinny families’ feud and eventual friendship is a fresh addition to the UK picture book aesthetic

Photograph: 21st Century Publishing House, Berlin



Viviane Schwarz am Henry Finch (with words by Alexis Deacon, published by Walker Books)

As always, Viviane Schwarz delights with her quirkiness and sense of humour. This is surely the case in this collaboration with Alexis Deacon. Illustrated in watercolour, ink, fingerprints and digital editing, it shares a philosophical pondering on a little bird's courage

Photograph: Henry Finch



Salvatore Rubbino A Walk in London (published by Walker Books)

In a series of recent books by Salvatore Rubbino, he gives a nod to 60s picture book illustration: a fun and funny visit to big cities in the Western world that informs and entertains.

I hope you have enjoyed looking at these gorgeous illustrations. It's been really hard to choose the 15 participants for this the Bratislava 2015 with IBBY UK. I hope you'll join me in wishing all the ones selected good luck. The last (and only) UK winner was John Lowe in 1995 so everything crossed we'll have success this year!

Photograph: Walker Books, Salvatore Rubbino

<http://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/gallery/2015/may/15/bratislava-bib-childrens-illustration-awards-2015>