

International Illustration Exhibitions in Iran, Bologna Children's Book Fair, and the Biennale of Illustrations Bratislava

Iranian illustrators are already familiar with international illustration exhibitions and have always been actively present in the illustration exhibitions in the world. However, many of the Iranian artists who have participated in these exhibitions multiple times and have even won awards are rarely able to

personally attend them. Therefore, following several recent exhibitions of illustrations by Iranian artists in European countries and the USA, we decided to host some of the international events in Iran so that Iranian audiences can attend and benefit from them.



The program included a fifteen minutes break and a snack that the children thoroughly enjoyed.

The 2015 program in the Burj Hammoud School was interrupted at the end of July, and because of changes in personnel in the Syrian-refugee national program, the sessions could only restart in February 2016 and ended in March. On the last day, the teachers and the children cooperated in making pizza and some local dishes that everyone enjoyed. The head of the project wrote to say that it was hard to describe the children's happiness. On March 12, a new session began in the school with a new group of eighty children, four teachers, and a Coordinator. This went through mid-May, this time for four hours every Saturday, the day off in this school, from 8:00 to 12:00, with a break of half an hour and a snack.

Julinda Abu Nasr, who is the leader of the project, was very present during the sessions and moved from one classroom to the next, observing the children's behavior and listening to their trials and tribulations. She wrote, "I also observe the performance of the teachers who are trying their best to change their authoritarian approach to teaching and learn to listen rather than talk. At the end of each session, I sit down with the teachers and together we evaluate the session. I give some of my time to work with individual children who need more attention than others."

The Ministry of Education sent delegates from their Guidance and Counseling office to observe and check on our work. They were so pleased with the program that they asked if their personnel could also be trained in its use.

As in previous groups, the children were reporting horror stories of experiences they have been exposed to of severe violence on them, their families, friends, towns, villages, and schools. A new trend in children's behavior was the use of knives to hurt others. If knives were not available, they used well-sharpened pencils to hit other children with. The anger, hate, bitterness, aggression, and anxiety are so apparent and intense in these children's behavior. Fighting over a ball can create a serious problem: a few children who are playing ball in a group may end up wounded or bruised.

It is rewarding to learn of the changes in their behavior on the playground, in the classroom, and even at home. At the beginning, their immediate reactions in all situations were to hit, kick, curse,

use foul language, snatch what they want, or stab with a knife or a pencil or any sharp tool they get hold of, but after a few sessions, you see a dramatic change in their social skills. Parents are reporting change in the children's behavior at home as well. The parents are very supportive of the program. Although the sessions take place in the children's free time, they insist on coming and the parents cooperate in sending them even though there is no form of transportation for them.

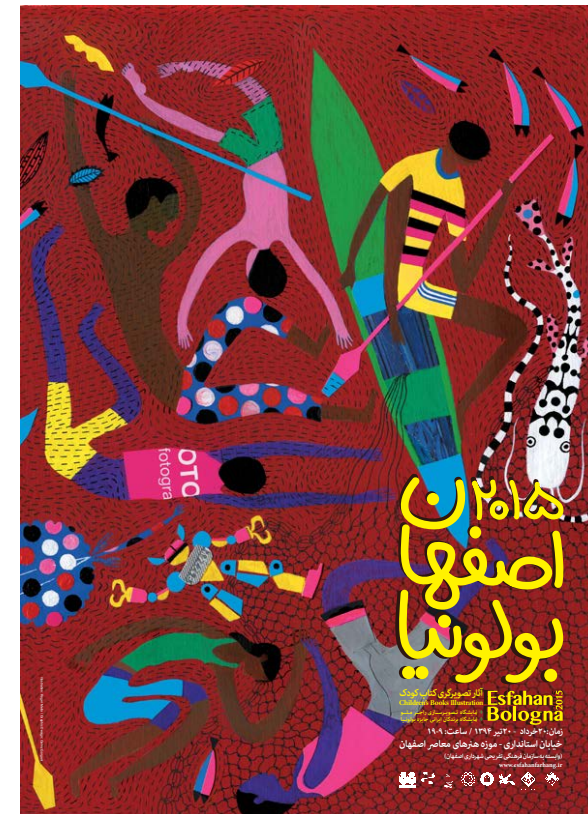
Julinda goes on to say, "There is no doubt in my mind that the work we are doing with these children is lighting a candle in the dark tunnel they have had to cross too early in life. I am sure the love they are given, the opportunity to express themselves in a variety of means, the possibility of meeting characters in books who set examples of good behavior, the privilege of being heard and sympathized with are all saving them from the danger of harping the anger and hate in their burdened souls that may lead them into crime and misbehavior in the future. This program is helping them deal with their hate and anger by trying to channel these negative destructive feelings into more positive venues rather than directing it towards self or others."

We need to continue this worthwhile project. The crisis in Syria is not over, and there is no sign that it will be any time soon. These children continue to flee their homes and continue to have difficulties in returning to their childhood. This project shows how careful training and group sessions can help them get their emotions and thus their lives back. It is a small project that has potential to grow throughout the school system, reaching many more children in need. With your support, IBBY will be able to continue to fund this work.

*Julinda Abu Nasr
IBBY Lebanon*

Funds sent to
Lebanon to date:
USD 45,000

BOLOGNA-TEHRAN/ISFAHAN



Isfahan-Bologna exhibition poster. Illustrated by: Roger Mello, Designed by: Golriz Gorgani.

The Bologna-Tehran and the Bologna-Isfahan exhibitions were organized in Iran in May 2015, to coincide with the Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF), and included four international components.

- The Bologna illustration exhibition 2015.
- Works by Roger Mello (Brazil), the winner of the 2014 Hans Christian Andersen Award.
- Works by the Iranian artists whose works has been featured in the Bologna illustration exhibition over the past ten years. These include Sious Āqākhāni (2008), Hasan Amekan (2007, 2010, 2013), Nedā Azimi (2006), Sahar Bardāyee (2006, 2009), Behnoush Behzādi (2007), Ali Boozari (2006, 2007), Marjan Farmani (2011), Ali-rezā Goldouziān (2012, 2013), Zhilā Hodāyee (2014), Amin Hasanzādeh (2014), Mehdi Karimzādeh (2009), Rashin Khayrieh (2007, 2009, 2011, 2013), Āzādeh Madani (2006), Vidā Rabāni (2006), Pezhmān Rahimzāde (2013), Golnaz Mahmoudi (2007), Monireh Mansouri (2009), Ghazāleh Marsousi (2013), Narges Mohammadi (2008, 2012, 2015), Hasan Mousavi (2013), Fereshteh Najafi (2009, 2012, 2015), Afrā Nobahār (2010), Fatemeh Qāsemi (2015), Noushin Safā-khou (2009, 2011, 2012), Zahra Sarmashqi (2009), Amir Shabānīpour (2007, 2009, 2013), Farshid Shafī'ei (2009), Syaed Fazlāh Tabātabāyee (2013), Mortezā Zāhedi (2006, 2012, 2014).
- The Iranian books that have won different awards and honors at the International Bologna Children's Book Awards in the past fifty years. These include Farshid Mesqāli: Graphic Prize Fiera di Bologna Award 1969 for the book Māhi siāh-e Kouchoulou

[The Little Black Fish]; Mortezā Esmāil-Sohi: Graphic Prize Fiera di Bologna Award 1985 for the book Barghā [Leaves]; Behrād Amin-Salmāssi: Graphic Prize Fiera di Bologna Award 1991 (Special Mention) for the book Dobāre Negāh Kon [Look again–The Metals]; Bahrām Khāeef: BolognaRagazzi Award / New Horizons Award 2003 for the book Hekayat-Nameh [The Anecdotes]; Shabaviz Publishing House, Bologna-Ragazzi Award / New Horizons Award 2004 for all productions; Afrā Nobahār: BolognaRagazzi Award / New Horizons Award 2006 (Special Mention) for the book Tāp, Tāp, Tāp; Rāshin Khayrieh: BolognaRagazzi Award / New Horizons Award 2009 (Special Mention) for the book Arang, arang, begou che rang? [Arang, Arang, Tell Me What Color?]; Hodā Haddādi: BolognaRagazzi Award / New Horizons Award 2010 (Special Mention) for the book Do dust [Two friends]; Ali Boozari: BolognaRagazzi Award / New Horizons Award 2012 (Special Mention) for the book Shenidār-e Pendār [Misunderstanding].

The exhibition opened on 8 May 2015 at Qasr cultural complex in Tehran, with speeches by Roberta Chinni, the Exhibition Manager of the BCBF; Ali Boozari, EC member of The Iranian Illustrators Society (IIS); and Noushin Ansari, the Secretary General of the Children's Book Council of Iran (CBC) and IBBY Iran. Later the exhibition moved to the city of Isfahan and on 10 June 2015 and was shown at the Isfahan Museum of Contemporary Art.

BRATISLAVA-TEHRAN/ISFAHAN

The history of Iran's cooperation with the BIB goes back to the early years of its establishment. Iranian illustrators started participating in this international event in 1969, when it sent six illustrators. The Iranian participation reached its peak between the years 2003 and 2007, during which twenty illustrators from Iran participated in the competition and two attended the UNESCO-Albín Brunovský illustration workshop. In addition, for many years, Iranian judges have acted as members of the jury. Due to political developments, the strong Iranian participation was minimalized during the Iraq-Iran war between the years 1980 and 1988. During the immediate aftermath of the war, no Iranian artist

could participate in the 1989 Biennale. Several Iranian experts were BIB Jury members: Farshid Mesqāli (BIB'75), Sirous Tahbāz (BIB'77), Nouredin Zarrinkelk (BIB'99), Behzād Gharib-pour (BIB'03), Abol-Fazl Hemmati-Āhouei (BIB'05), and Mahnoush Moshiri (BIB'07). The Iranian artists who participated in the UNESCO-Albín Brunovský illustration workshops that are run in cooperation with the BIB are Mehmoush Ma'soumiān (BIB'89), Nasrin Khosravi (BIB'95), Firouze Golmohammadi (BIB'99), Behzād Gharibpour and Farshid Shafī'ei (BIB'01), Pezhmān Rahimzāde (BIB'03), Hodā Haddādi and Ali Khosh-Jām (BIB'05), Mohammad-Ali Bani-asadi

and Ali Boozari (BIB'07), Marjān Vafāiyān (BIB'09), Fariddedin Moulāi and Maysam Mousavi (BIB'11), and Aileen Bahmanipour (BIB'13). The Iranian speakers who took part in the BIB symposium were Zohreh Ghāeni (BIB'99), Farshid Mesqāli (BIB'01), Behzād Gharibpour (BIB'03), Parnāz Nayeri (BIB'05), Mehrnoosh Moshiri (BIB'07), Hamid-Rezā Shāhābādi (BIB'09), Sahar Tarhandeh (BIB'11), Ali Boozari (BIB'13 and BIB'15), and Zohreh Parirokh (BIB'13). On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Biennale of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB), an event was hosted by Iran that included the following exhibitions:

- The BIB grand prix winners in the previous twenty-five Biennales.
- The winners of the eleven main awards of the BIB'15.
- The Iranian participants of the BIB'15 exhibition. Nazanin Abāsi, Mitrā Abdollāhi, Mohammad-'Ali Bani-asadi, Atieh Bozorg-Sohrabi, Rezā Dalvand, Ali Khodāyee, Atefeh Maleki-jou, Atieh Markazi, Lidā Motamed, Pezhmān Rahimzāde, Paymān Rahimzādeh, Mahkāme Shabāi, Noushin Safā-khou, and Zahra Sarmashqi.
- The Iranian winners of the BIB in the previous twenty-five Biennales. Farshid Mesqāli, Honorary mention BIB 1969 for the book Māhi siāh-e Kouchoulou [The Little Black Fish]; Nouredin



Isfahan-Bratislava exhibition poster. Deigned by: Golriz Gorgāni

- Zarrinkelk, BIB Golden Apple 1971 for illustrations to the book Kalāgh-hā [The crows]; Bahman Dādkhāh, BIB Golden Plaque 1973 for illustrations to the book Toukā-yee dar qafas [An Oortolan in the Cage]; Farshid Mesqāli, BIB Golden Apple 1973 for illustrations to the book Ārash-e kamāngir [Ārash the Bowman]; Mohammad-Rezā Dādgar, BIB Golden Plaque 1987 for illustrations to the book Yek harf-o-do harf [Letters and Words]; Karim Nasr, BIB Golden Plaque 1991 for illustrations to the book Āb mesl-e Māhi [Water means Fish]; Honar-e Norouz Publishing House, Honorary mention BIB'99; Hāfez Mirāftābi, BIB Golden Plaque 2003 for illustrations to the books Bāyad be fekr-e fereshte boud [We must be thinking on Angel] and Elyās; Ali-rezā Goldouziān, Grand Prix BIB 2005 for illustrations to the books Medād-e siyāh va medād-e qermez [The Black Pen and the White Pen] and Jourab-e sourākh [Hole in the sock]; Hodā Haddādi, BIB Golden Plaque 2007 for illustrations to the book Agar man khalabān boudam [If I were a Pilot] and Baz baran [Again Rain]; Farshid Shafi'ei, BIB Golden Apple 2007 for illustrations to the books Peyvand and Zarbal; and Rāshin Kheirie, BIB

Golden Apple 2011 for illustrations to the books Agar man Shahrdar boudam [If I were a Myer] and Moj-hā-ye daryā yek botri rā be sāhel āvardeh ast [The Waves brought the Bottle to the Shore].

This latter exhibition initially opened at Lāleh Art Gallery in Tehran on 13 November 2015 and then moved to the Museum of Contemporary Arts in Isfahan on 14 December 2015. At the same time two seminars were organized; the first was on 15 November at the Author's meeting room in The Book House of Iran when the speakers were Ali Boozari, Lili Haeri Yazdi, director of Kiā Literary Agency, Mahnoush Moshiri and Sahar Tārhandeh. The second meeting was held on 14 December 2015 at Isfahan's Museum of Contemporary Arts and featured special guests Ali Boozari, Sahar Tārhandeh, Hodā Haddādi and Ali-rezā Goldouziān. These exhibitions were held with the supervision of the IIS and in collaboration with CBC.

Ali Boozari

EC member of IIS and member of CBC

Jeju is a beautiful island located in the southernmost part of Korea, but it carries a sad history. Yeonwha in *Unknown Child* tells a story of the Jeju 4.3 incident, when a large number of people were sacrificed over seven years in the late 1940s and early 1950s in the name of suppressing the Reds in Jeju (a shameful piece of Korean history that is difficult to tell children). Yeonwha believes that her older brother went to Seoul, but people believe that Yeonwha's brother became a communist and escaped to the mountain. After her mother was murdered, Yeonwha has to leave her beloved hometown and hide her identity to save her and her young brother's lives. Yeonwha knows that a communist family member endangers not only the family but also the entire town, and her incredible journey to survive will bring readers heartache and anger at the same time.

Sungja Jang, the author, was born in Jeju and lived there until she was nine. Her love of Jeju and childhood memories make Yeonwha's story authentic for young readers, help children to experience what it was like to live in such a harsh time, and learn about modern Korean history.

Jongsun Wee

BOOKBIRD POSTCARDS



**모르는 아이
(Unknown Child)**

Sungja Jang

Illus. Jinwha Kim

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