Catalan Children’s and Young Adult Books 2017
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## Contents

**Foreword**  
Illustrated Books  
What Color Are Kisses?  
The Tree of Things  
Gus and the Monsters  
Bruno’s Hat  
The Color Monster  
Peter and the Woods  
Tales of Nasrudin  
Monsieur Scribble  
What’s Hidden in the Sea?  
Living with Hilda  

Middle grade  
and Young Adult Novels  
A Son  
Sentinels  
The Midnight Girl  
Black Grass  
That Thing with Grandpa  
Dear Leo  
The Island of Paidonesia  
Sleeping with Lions  
Benjamin and the Streetlight that Never Turned Green  
What Life Brings  

Institut Ramon Llull Grants  
Institut Ramon Llull  
Literature and the Humanities Team
Sharing a Future:  
Books in Catalan

With a long tradition of publishing houses devoted to books for young readers that dates back to the 15th century with the Montserrat Abbey—the oldest editorial house in Europe, Catalan literature for children and young adults has had a continued lively presence. Today this sector, along with the illustration that so often accompanies it, is a prominent player in our cultural and publishing tradition.

The cultural and professional network that extends throughout the Catalan-speaking areas, with a plethora of independent and innovative publishers as well as multinational houses with subsidiaries around the world, is a constant stimulus for writers, illustrators, designers, translators, editors, booksellers, literary agents, teachers, researchers, critics, librarians, and cultural managers. The solidity of this network has fostered high-quality creative works, a wealth of knowledge, and a font of innovation that deserves to be shared with other countries.

It is this vitality, strength, and quality that led to our selection as the 2017 Guest of Honor at the Bologna Children's Book Fair. The exhibitions and wide range of activities the Institut Ramon Llull has organized for this occasion, both within the Fair and throughout the city, are a golden opportunity for the world of international children's publishing to get a window onto our reality, find out more about it, and carry it home with them across the planet.

We hope that this brochure, where we present not only a sampling of the rich panorama of Catalan literature for young readers but also information on the grants available from the Institut Ramon Llull for its internationalization, contributes to furthering your knowledge of what we have to offer.

We are convinced that being Guest of Honor will be a watershed moment, both in the number of translations from Catalan into other languages and in the international impact our literature will have in the future. We invite you to take a closer look.

Izaskun Arretxe  
Head of the Department of Literature and the Humanities  
Institut Ramon Llull
Maria José Ferrada and Miguel Lang

Tree of Things

Winner of the 2016 Junceda Prize

In her backyard, Maria discovers a peculiar tree. It is the tree of things, which inexplicably and uncontrollably sprouts fish, stars, clouds, and more. And then these strange flowers disappear, while around Maria other trees and efforts bear their fruits. The enigmatic tree leads Maria, and readers, to wonder about all sorts of questions.

Maria José Ferrada (Chile, 1977) is a journalist, an artisanal bookmaker, and an award-winning author who has represented her country at various book fairs including Guadalajara. She has published with various houses such as Alfaguara Juvenil and A buen paso. Her books include Un jardín, Tienes un vestido blanco and El árbol de las cosas, illustrated by Miguel Pang and winner of the 2016 Junceda Prize.

Miguel Lang was born in Catalonia to a Cambodian mother and a Chinese father. He holds a degree in Fine Arts and has studied illustration at the Escola Massana, and worked in the publishing, design, and animation worlds. His art has been exhibited in various countries and been awarded several international prizes, such as the 2003 Pere Jou Sculpture Prize, the 2006 Special Honor at the VII Simposio di Scultura Antonio Berti in San Piero a Sieve, and the 2012 Premio Nazionale delle Arti 2012 per il design della comunicazione.

A picture book that looks at the relationship between colors and feelings in a precise, tender, and original way.

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Illustrated Books

Rocío Bonilla

What Color Are Kisses?

Awarded Best Book of 2016 Prize by the Ministry of Culture and Education.

30,000 copies sold in Spain

Minimoni loves to color: blue skies, red ladybugs... but she doesn’t know what’s the right color for a kiss. Rocío Bonilla makes a clever journey through the basic colors and the emotions we associate with them, referencing a classic subject that has been taken up by authors such as Maurice Sendak, Arnold Lobel, and Jutta Bauer. Bonilla, whose work has become a touchstone in the picture book field, offers us an openhearted, warm tale featuring diverse composition and nice interplay between the text and the illustrations.

Rocío Bonilla (Barcelona, 1970) earned a degree in Fine Arts and after a decade working in advertising, began to write and illustrate picture books. Her first, Cara de pardal, was published by Bromera, and was followed by La montanya de llibres més alta del món, and De quin color són els besos? She has illustrated Els fantàsmes no toquen a la porta (written by Eulàlia Canal), and Max i els superherois, by Oriol Malet.

Publisher: Bromera
Format: Hardcover 29 × 21 cm
Target age: 6+
Publication date: September 2015
Pages: 40
Rights sold:
Clavis (Dutch)
Korean (Yellowstone Publishing Company)
English (Charlesbridge-USA)
Slovenian (Druživo Mestorjeva družba)
French (Editions Pierre Foutetard-France)
Italian (Francesco Broissi Editore /Valentina Edizione)
Portuguese (Presença)
Turkish (Mia Organizasyon)
Ukrainian (Nebo Booklad Publishing)
Chinese (Lijiang Publishing Limited)
Foreign Rights Contact:
Carol Borràs
carol@bromera.com

Rocío Bonilla

Publisher: A buen Paso
Format: Hardcover 21 × 26.5
Target age: 6+
Publication date: October 2015
Pages 32

Foreign Rights Contact:
Arianna Squilloni
ariannasq@gmail.com

The Tree of Things is a poetic look at the mysteries of life, for which there often is no explanation.
Gus and the Monsters

Jaume Copons and Liliana Fortuny

More than 50,000 copies sold in Spain. Winner of the Llança Sant Jordi Prize in 2015 and 2016

A collection of illustrated chapter books for ages 7 and up, featuring Gus, a boy whose personality and daily life his readers can easily relate to. One day, a group of stuffed toys reveal themselves to actually be monsters who can walk and talk, and they lead him into a fantastic parallel world. There, in each new installment, he has kooky adventures as they fight against heinous Dr. Sprout. This fun collection reads easily, and its direct writing style and dynamic visuals delight its many fans.

Publisher: Combel-Casals
Format: 21.5 × 15cm
Target age: 8+
Published titles:
1. The Arrival of Mr. Flat! (2014) 136 pages
2. Let’s Save the Nautilus! (2014) 152 pages
3. The War of the Forest (2015) 152 pages
4. The Legend of the Sea (2016) 172 pages
5. Star George (2016) 80 pages
6. From Book to Book (2016) 160 pages
7. The Highest Card (February 2017) 160 pages

Forthcoming titles:
10. Activities & Games (April 2017)
11. Dr. Sprout’s Book (September 2017)

Rights sold:
Korean (Blue Wing)
English and French (Éditions Chouette-North America)
Chino (Saying)
Portuguese (Impala)
Greek (Kedros)
Latin (Lauku Avite)
Turkish (Nesil Basim Yarim Gida Tic. Sa. A.S.)
French European countries (Steinkis)

Foreign Rights Contact:
Combel Editorial S. A.
Esther Serra
esther.serra@editorialcasals.com
IMC Agència Literària
Alba Adell
alba@iemece.com

Canizales

Bruno’s Hat

2016 Boolino Prize for Picture Book

Bruno and Pedro are buddies and have all sorts of fun together. But everything changes when another classmate starts teasing Bruno because of his hat. Wanting to be part of the gang, Pedro joins in when they make fun of Bruno and exclude him, and gradually they stop being friends. Luckily, Pedro’s mother is able to teach them that friends aren’t just there for each other during the fun times, but also stick together when things get tough.

Canizales (Colombia) studied Fine Arts in Colombia, where he was born, and animation in Spain, where he now lives. His work has been published in newspapers and magazines on both sides of the Atlantic. His experience includes comics, children’s books, art direction, animation, advertising, and character design. He teaches illustration and graphic design at the Escuela de Arte y Diseño in Palma, Majorca. In 2016 he won the Boolino Prize and the Apila Award, both for Best Picture Book. His work has been published in more than a dozen countries.

Publisher: Beascoa
Format: 22.7 × 22.8cm
Target age: 7+
Publication date: November 2016
Pages: 32

Foreign Rights Contact:
Alba Adell
alba@iemece.com

Liliana Fortuny has worked animating television series, commercials, websites for studios, production companies and artists including Estudio Mariscal, Benéce Producciones (Baba, Qué Noin!, Aquest comte no s’ha acabat, L’Alex somia...), and performances by Marcelí. She has created, drawn, and animated music videos for bands and has illustrated all sorts of books. She is also the co-creator of the Renoc clothing line.

A lovely story about respect and the essential values of friendship.

Jaume Copons is a scriptwriter for the Spanish version of Sesame Street (TVE), the creator of TV programs such as Los Lunnis (TVE), Los Algos (Cuatro), MiraSete (IB3) and of songs, records, opening credits, and advertisements for television. He has written more than 40 novels for young readers, including La Mà Negra (Barcanova), and the series Jo, Elvi Riboldi (La Galera). He has translated such authors as P.D. Baccalario and Lemony Snicket. In addition to Bono Bidari, he also uses the pseudonyms Julián Aguilar and Lilian Wallaby.

A chapter book series that superbly combines text and illustration.
Jaume Cabré, the most international author in Catalan literature, presents Peter, a little boy who goes into the woods one night to search for his missing toy fire truck. A number of forest animals help him to find the (sometimes magical) means to overcome obstacles and locate his prized possession. The artwork, by the gifted Júlia Sardà, beautifully complements the enormous qualities of the text, with fold-outs and cut-outs, and a palette of ochres that plays against the white of the page.

Jaume Cabré (Barcelona, 1947) is an essential author in contemporary Catalan literature. He primarily writes novels and short stories, but has also had plays published, as well as several books of reflections on writing and reading. His work has been translated in over fifteen countries—to overwhelming success in Germany, Italy, France and the Netherlands—making him one of the most important authors in the current literary landscape.

Júlia Sardà (Barcelona) studied Fine Arts and Graphic Art at the Esola Joso. She has worked on the Disney/Pixar film tie-in publishing line and now makes her living as an illustrator, working for agencies that include Pickledink (in the UK) and Writers House (in the US). She has illustrated classics such as The Wizard of Oz, Alice in Wonderland, and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

The Catalan author best known around the world leads the youngest readers on a magical journey into the forest.
Halil Bárcena and Mariona Cabassa

Tales of Nasrudin

Winner of the 2016 Serra d’Or Critics’ Prize

Ten short stories featuring Nasrudin, a figure in the Eastern oral tradition, with bright, charming illustrations by Mariona Cabassa. The protagonist embodies the figure of the wise fool whose childlike, spontaneous behavior is bewilderding and unsettling. They read like jokes, although they are much more: a peerless example of human behavior and the transformative power of humor.

Halil Bárcena (Renedo, Cantabria, 1962) is an Islamicist and specialist in Sufi mysticism. He has a degree in Information Sciences, is certified in Arabic, holds a Masters in Arab Studies, and a diploma in Advanced Studies in Humanities. He works with the Universities of Barcelona and Deusto. In 1998 he founded the Institute of Sufi Studies in Barcelona. He directs the Sufi music and dance group ‘Ushâq. He is a translator and author with a long list of publications.

Mariona Cabassa (Barcelona, 1977) has a degree in Graphic Design from the Escola Massana, and studied illustration and printmaking in Strasbourg. Her work has been recognized with numerous awards. Her books include La flor azul, La pregunta de Assa, and Buhulil.

Nasrudin’s tales are a fun point of entry into both oral storytelling and the long tradition of laughing at the human condition.

Lyon and Marcus

Monsieur Scribble

Winner of the 2016 Junceda Prize for Best Picture Book in the Fiction category

In this story, a scribble becomes a character. Monsieur Scribble feels satisfied with his job, his illustrator, and his routine. But when the illustrator leaves, he doesn’t know what to do with himself. That’s when Mrs. Milanata shows up and, true to form, tries to erase him, just like any other useless doodle. Thus begins Mr. Scribble’s adventure, who must reinvent himself and use his imagination to escape his pursuer.

Lyona (the artistic name of Marta Puig, Esparreguera, 1979) is a graphic designer, illustrator, and music video director. She holds a degree in Direction from the ESCAC. Her first publication, Jo mataré monstres per tu, written by Santi Balmes, has been reprinted more than twenty times. She also illustrated the graphic novel Mis primeros, primeros besos and La vida es corta y luego te mueres, a hundred and twenty flash fiction stories by Enric Pardo, each with their corresponding illustrations. She was awarded the 2016 Junceda Prize for Monsieur Gargot.

Marcus (the artistic name of Marc Torrent, Barcelona, 1977) is an illustrator who lives between Barcelona and London. He studied at the Escola Massana and was one of the founders of Edicions Garabattage, an independent publisher focused on illustration. He’s worked as a professional illustrator since 2001. He has published various children’s books, most notably Plora que plou, winner of the 2014 Junceda Prize, which he won again in 2016 with Monsieur Gargot.

The main character of this highly imaginative picture book is a scribble who comes to life and takes on different forms in order to survive.
RGB is a technique that uses filters of colored transparent material to reveal the different layers of a drawing. Combined with the author’s skill, this creates a book that is pure magic. The various filters allow for an observational game that exposes layers invisible to the naked eye. With the diver’s loupe nothing seems to move; then with the glasses everything comes to life; and finally, the submarine window allows readers to discover a world filled with all sorts of creatures.

A book designed with an illustration technique that allows readers to playfully explore an enticing world of optical illusions.

Aina Bestard

What’s Hidden in the Sea?

A clever, amusing tale about the complexities of living together.

Hilda is a little girl with a wild imagination—depicted in striking illustrations—who is in search of companionship. Yet she finds drawbacks to every possible contender: “And what if that crocodile gets hungry and eats me?” “And what if that giraffe... with those long legs, doesn’t leave me any room on the couch to watch cartoons?” And what if the real challenge was the other way around: having to live with Hilda?

Bel Olid

Living With Hilda

Aina Bestard

Bel Olid and Mercè Canals

Aina Bestard (Mallorca, 1981) studied Design at ESDI and then a postgraduate course in illustration at EINA. She has worked as a fashion designer and fabric printer for Miro’s Jeans and Woman’s Secret, and designed shoes for Camper. She is the author of several popular picture books that have been translated in various languages: *L’ Escola sota el mar*, *Què s’amaga dins el bosc?* and *Posa color a Catalunya*.

Bel Olid (Mataró, 1977) is a writer, translator, and professor of translation at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Winner of the Documenta Novel Prize, the Rovelló Non-fiction Award, and the Roc Boronat Short Story Prize. She is a regular contributor in various cultural media outlets. Former president of the Conseil Européen des Associations de Traducteurs Littéraires (CEATL) and, since 2015, president of the Associació d’Escriptors en Llengua Catalana. Her recent publications include a story collection entitled *Vents més salvatges*, the picture books *Gegantíssima* and *Viure amb la Hilda*, and *Vides aturades*, a reportage on the reality of refugees in Europe.

Mercè Canals (Badalona, 1970) is a professor and an illustrator. She studied Applied Arts, Artistic Trades, and Illustration at the Escola Pau Gargallo. She researches and works with printmaking techniques, such as silkscreen, linoleum and woodcut printing. She has explored various fields of illustration: for the media, packaging, and theater sets. She has published five children’s books. Her work has been published internationally and recognized with many awards.

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A clever, amusing tale about the complexities of living together.

Bel Olid and Mercè Canals

Living With Hilda

Winner of the 2016 Destino Apel·les Mestres Prize

Hilda is a little girl with a wild imagination—depicted in striking illustrations—who is in search of companionship. Yet she finds drawbacks to every possible contender: “And what if that crocodile gets hungry and eats me?” “And what if that giraffe... with those long legs, doesn’t leave me any room on the couch to watch cartoons?” And what if the real challenge was the other way around: having to live with Hilda?

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A clever, amusing tale about the complexities of living together.
A Son

Premi Joaquim Ruyra 2014
Winner of the 2016 National Literature Award

A Son begins with the question “what do you want to be when you grow up?” and Guillem’s surprising answer: Mary Poppins. A psychologist begins to investigate what lies behind his response. The author presents the events from the alternating perspectives of several protagonists in order to create the complex puzzle of Guillem’s family universe. Most noteworthy is how he metes out information, turns situations upside down, and deals with feelings that really touch a chord with readers.

Alejandro Palomas (Barcelona, 1967) holds a degree in English Philology and a Master’s in Poetics from the New College in San Francisco. He combines incursions into journalism with literary translation. Among his novels are El tiempo del corazón (Fnac New Talent Award), Tanta vida, El secreto de los Hoffman (finalist for the 2008 Torrevieja Fiction Prize and adapted for the stage in 2009), El alma del mundo (finalist for the 2011 Primavera Prize) and El tiempo que nos une. This book, , won him the National Literature Prize in the juvenile category. His work has been translated into ten languages.

A surprisingly emotional and affecting novel that became one of the great revelations of recent years.

Sentinels

Winner of the 2016 Joaquim Ruyra Prize

A famous television host and his friend create Sentinels, a reality show that attempts to transform ten people into superheroes who will fight for peace, justice... and ratings! The contestants’ tumultuous living situation and their interactions are the focus and motor of the story but, of course, they have an archenemy: Doctor Terror, an unscrupulous villain who will stop at nothing to get viewers to tune in to the show.

Martín Piñol (Barcelona, 1979) is a pacesetter in Catalan literature for children and young adults, with twenty-five published books. Sentinels is his new novel, winner of the 2016 Joaquim Ruyra Prize. It follows Pizzaboy, which was awarded the 2015 Ramon Muntaner Prize, and his children’s series La cocina de los monstruos, which, with its mix of humor, cooking and zombies, has earned him international success.

A scathing, fast-paced novel that looks at the dark side of television, fame, and reality shows. It can be read without commercials.
Black Grass

Winner of the Ramon Muntaner Prize

Taking its inspiration from the great classics of post-apocalyptic science fiction, such as The Day of the Triffids by John Wyndham, this is the story of three teenagers who find themselves caught up in the fight against a sect determined to colonize the planet by means of an invasive plant. Readers will be enthralled by the dizzying pace of the constant confrontations between the protagonists and their adversaries, and the wild, often hilarious, situations they end up in.

Ricard Ruiz Garzón (Barcelona, 1973) is an author, columnist, and writing teacher at the Ateneu Barcelonès and the Master's in Publishing at the UPF. He won the 2017 Edebé Prize for La Immortal, the 2016 Ramon Muntaner Prize for Herba negra and the 2006 Miradas Award for Las voces del laberinto, among others. Between 1996 and 2016 he worked as a journalist and literary critic for the most important outlets both in the printed press and on television.

Salvador Macip (Girona, 1970) earned a doctorate in medicine from the Universitat de Barcelona, and is a professor at the University of Leicester. He has published several books, both for adults and for children, including Immortals, sans i perfectes, jugar a ser déus (co-written with Chris Willmott, which won the European Popular Science Prize), the YA novel Ullals (co-written with Sebastia Roig, and winner of the 2009 Joaquim Ruyra Prize), Hip-nofòbia (the 2012 Carlemany Award winner), and Herba negra (co-written with Ricard Ruiz Garzón, which received the 2016 Ramon Muntaner Prize).

A science fiction novel in the style of the great classics of the genre, filled with relentless battles that move the plot along at a furious pace.

The Midnight Girl

Winner of the 2016 Serra d’Or Critics’ Prize in the Juvenile category

Seventeen-year-old Sira Burg is listening to the radio when she hears a surprising piece of news: an elderly German woman reveals the secret that she was one of Hitler’s tasters, who made sure that no one had poisoned his food. Sira’s grandmother had told her about that story, but she’d never believed it. Now she knows that the “midnight girl” really did exist, and that she’s still alive. She impulsively decides to travel to Berlin to meet her.

Gisela Pou (Castellar del Vallès, 1959) has already devoted twenty years to her writing. She is the scriptwriter of several famous TV drama series. She is also the author of some children’s and YA fiction, including the Sara Pegues series. She has also published four novels for adults (Sense mare, Soroll de fonts, La voz invisible, and El silencio de las viñas).

Two stories intertwine and shine light on each other: Sira’s coming-of-age journey and the incredible story of Hitler’s last surviving taster.

Gisela Pou

Ricard Ruiz and Salvador Macip

Publisher: FanBooks
Format: 14 × 21.5 cm
Target age: 14+
Publication date: November 2016
Pages: 328

Foreign Rights Contact:
Ella Sher Literary Agency
ella@ellasher.com
Asterisc Literary Agency
natalia@asteriscagents.com

Publisher: Edebé
Format: 13 × 20,5 cm
Target age: 14+
Publication date: October 2015
Pages: 168

Rights sold: Spanish (Don Bosco - Ecuador)

Foreign Rights Contact:
Georgia Picanyol Bulló
gpicanyol@edebe.net
Edebé
That Thing With Grandpa

Winner of the 2016 Gran Angular Award

This novel tackles the subject of a corruption case involving an important public figure. However, instead of treating it journalistically, the author gets inside the skin of the alleged wrongdoer’s grandson. When he discovers his grandfather’s true personality, it’s like the rug has been pulled out from under him. The grandson himself feels like he’s fallen from grace, into the utmost insignificance. This is a novel that stands out for its detailed psychological portrait of the teenaged protagonist.

Anna Manso (Barcelona) studied cinema and has worked as a scriptwriter on numerous successful TV programs, series and children’s segments, such as ClubSuper3, MIC, Una mà de contes and Ventdelpla. She is currently a contributor to the newspaper ARA. She is also an award-winning author, mainly for children and young readers. She has twice won the Prestigious Gran Angular Award.

An original, relatable way to look at corruption, told in the voice of the accused’s grandson. This intimate perspective heightens the impact on readers.

Dear Leo

Winner of the 2016 Guillem Cifre de Colonya Award

A realistic novel that allows readers into Adrian’s everyday life and personal universe, revealing his family life, his relationships with guys, girls, teachers... and how he feels about it all. His emotions and attitudes are at the heart of this novel, while the figure of Leo Messi, soccer star of the FC Barcelona team, is always on the horizon as a point of reference.

Miquel Arguimbau and Daniel Arguimbau are the authors of the novel Estimat Leo. They are very good friends who met a long time ago. And they also happen to be father and son. Miquel has spent more than thirty years as a journalist and a writer for radio and television; he’s also worked in advertising and in the world of comics. He is the author of numerous YA novels (some of which were co-written with his son, Daniel), including La mica de Salvador Dalí, L’estàtua sense rostre, Ai, significa amor, L’hivència congelada, and El robo de la máscara. Daniel Arguimbau is a scriptwriter and producer and shares Miquel’s passion for literature and reaching young readers.

Leo Messi has an attitude—both on and off the playing field—that serves as a model for the teenage protagonists of this book.
Laia Longan

Sleeping With Lions

Winner of the 2016 Atrapallibres Prize awarded by the Catalan Council for Children’s Literature (in the middle-grade category)

Tom runs away from an orphanage to join the circus, hoping he will find his father. There he meets Lana and they strike up a friendship. Readers will be entranced by the dreamy, evocative world of The Night Circus, where Tom and Lana have all sorts of adventures. In this novel, one can catch glimpses of the influence of great works of world literature for children, such as Peter Pan, and Jim Button and Luke the Engine Driver.

A novel set in the circus, where reality, fantasy, and adventure are deftly combined.

Publisher: Bromera
Format: 13 x 20.5 cm
Target age: 10+
Publication date: October 2014
Pages: 192
Illustrator: Sonja Wimmer

Foreign Rights Contact:
Bromera
Carol Borràs
carol@bromera.com
Gonçal López-Pampló
pampló@bromera.com

Oriol Canosa

The Island of Paidonesia

Winner of the 2016 Josep M. Folch i Torres Prize

A nine-year-old boy is traveling by boat with his parents. He gets so bored that he decides to disembark on an island and start his own, new country. From there he sends out a letter to the children of the world to join him in his cause. Once he has a group gathered, they found the country based on letters that they send out to important grownups around the world and their replies. More and more kids join him on the island, and more and more complications arise. As in the work of Roald Dahl, the author is firmly on the side of the children.

Publisher: La Galera
Format: 13.5 x 21 cm
Target age: 7+
Publication date: March 2017
Pages: 140

Foreign Rights Contact:
Iolanda Bethencourt
IBethencourt@grec.com
La Galera

Oriol Canosa (Tarragona, 1975) is an author of literature for children and a bookseller. He has published two books for young readers, La casa del profesor Kürbis and ¿Apà! Et penses que ens ho creurem? He’s also published the middle-grade novel L’illa de les cartes perdudes, and is a contributor to the magazines Petit Sàpiens, Cavall Fort, and BarçaKids. In addition to his writing for children, he is the author of Guia de bolíola para personas inquietas (Intermón, 2009), a guide to social and environmental subjects.

An epistolary structure makes this clever novel flow, as children construct a world where they’re the ones in charge.

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Format: 13.5 x 21 cm
Target age: 7+
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Foreign Rights Contact:
Iolanda Bethencourt
IBethencourt@grec.com
La Galera
Rubén Montañá and Toni Sans

Benjamin and the Streetlight That Never Turned Green

Winner of the 2016 Guillem Cifre de Colonia Award

This book gets off to a very imaginative start, reminiscent of Gianni Rodari’s work, with a character thwarted by a streetlight that never turns green, forcing him to take a very long route home. One day he decides that he is going to just wait—for as long as it takes—there on the corner until the streetlight does turn green. He ends up getting drawn into a crime plot involving disappearances, mysteries, detectives, and more.

Rubén Montañá (Badalona, 1983) studied Graphic Art and Design and holds a degree in the Dramatic Arts. He is a founding member of the EGOS theater company. He is a professional actor, playwright, and novelist. His books include La botiga de mascotes extraordinàries (winner of the Barcanova Prize), La nena de Sarbe (winner of the Folch i Torres Prize), Atac llurra (winner of the Ciutat d’Olot Award) and En Benjamí i el semàfor que mai no es posava verd (winner of the 2016 Guillem Cifre de Colonia Prize), his first novel co-written with Toni Sans, after having collaborated on works for the stage.

Toni Sans (Barcelona, 1976) earned a degree in the Dramatic Arts. He is a founding member of the EGOS theater company. He combines acting, directing, and playwriting with writing books for children and young adults. En Benjamí i el semàfor que mai no es posava verd (winner of the 2016 Guillem Cifre de Colonia Prize) is his first novel, which he co-wrote with Rubén Montañá, following the success of their playwriting partnership.

Maite Carranza

What Life Brings

Winner of the 2016 Vaixell de Vapor Award

A middle-class family, comprised of a mother and her two children, can’t make ends meet and gets evicted from their home. This tragic event is inevitably dramatic, yet the author also imbues the characters and the setting with a strength and hope that shines through in many moments of the novel.

Maite Carranza (Barcelona, 1958) has a degree in anthropology. She is an author, scriptwriter, teacher, and lecturer at schools and libraries around the world. She has published more than fifty books for children and young adults; her work has been translated into more than twenty-five languages and been recognized with many awards including the 1986 Folch i Torres, the 1987 and 2011 Serra d’Or Critics’ Prize, the 1999 Joaquim Ruyra, the 2002 EDEBÉ, and the 2016 Vaixell de Vapor Award. She has also been awarded two of Spain’s prestigious prizes, in their juvenile category: the National Literature Award and the Cervantes Chico.

Masterful evidence of literature’s power to not only entertain but also serve as a mirror that reflects and denounces a very cruel and relevant reality.
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Grants for the translation of Catalan literature: fiction, non-fiction, children's and YA books, poetry, theater and graphic novels.
Recipients: Publishers.

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Grants to promote abroad Catalan literature (fiction, non-fiction, children's and YA books, poetry, theater and graphic novels), including participation in international literary festivals and presentations and promotional plans for new works in translation.
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The IRL attends the following book fairs: London, Paris, Bologna, Warsaw, Jerusalem, Beijing, Frankfurt, Sharjah, Istanbul and Guadalajara, informing about its services and activities.

Catalan Culture was Guest of Honour at Turin Book Fair (2003), Feria del libro de Guadalajara (2004), Frankfurter Buchmesse (2007) and Göteborg Book Fair (2014). As well as that, the city of Barcelona was Guest of Honour in Paris (2013) and Warsaw (2016). This year, Catalonia and Balearic Islands are the Guest of Honour at the Bologna Children’s Book Fair.