

SILENT BOOK CONTEST 2027 • GIANNI DE CONNO AWARD

INTERNATIONAL CONTEST FOR ILLUSTRATED BOOKS WITHOUT WORDS

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Carthusia Edizioni as main organizer, together with the Silent Book Contest Secretary's Office, with the collaboration of Bologna Children's Book Fair, Salone Internazionale del Libro di Torino, Comune di Mulazzo, l'Associazione Montereccio Paese dei Librai, member of I.O.B. International Organization of Book Towns Italia, with the patronage of IBBY Italia and Centro per il Libro e la Lettura (Cepell) and with the contribution of BPER Banca, presents the International Silent Book Contest 2027 – Gianni De Conno Award. The competition is exclusively reserved for new and unpublished illustrated books without words. The subject is open and not restricted to any age group and readers. The narration must be carried out exclusively through illustrated images and have narrative and stylistic coherence.
2. Authors, illustrators and artists of any nationality, place of origin or residence may participate, with original and unpublished projects, provided they are not less than 18 years old by the **15th January 2027**. It is possible to participate with one to a maximum of three unpublished projects for each Author.
3. From the book projects enrolled and sent to the competition by **15th January 2027**, an International Jury, nominated by the organization will select from ten to sixteen finalists book projects. They will be presented and exhibited at the **Bologna Children's Book Fair 2027 (April 2027)**. Then, among the finalists, the Jury will choose the winning project.
4. The book projects entered in the competition must be sent anonymously following the instructions given in the section "On-line registration procedure for submitting material". Book projects submitted and not corresponding to the Participation Methods or incomplete book projects will not be admitted. Also books already published in Italy and other countries won't be admitted.
5. The International Jury, nominated by the organization, is formed of 9 personalities of recognized prestige and professionalism in the publishing world, illustration and literature. The members of the International Jury will be published on the official website of the Silent Book Contest: www.silentbookcontest.com
6. The winner announcement and the award ceremony will be held at the **Salone Internazionale del Libro of Turin (Italy) in 2027**, where the finalists exhibition will be set up.
7. **The winning book project** of the Silent Book Contest 2027 **will be published by June 2027** by Carthusia Edizioni of Milan (Italy). The publisher will add it and promote it as part of its editorial catalogue. Carthusia Edizioni has the possibility to decide to do not publish the winning book if considered inappropriate. The author will sign a regular publishing contract and, as established in the rules of the contest and in the contract, will receive a **cash prize of € 2.500**, as advance on the royalties.

* In case that the winning project is a collective work of two or more illustrators, the money prize will be equally divided among them in equal parts and the publishing contract will bear the names of both/all the author. In case the winning illustrator has collaborated with an author (not illustrator, but ideator) to ideate the narrative project, the money prize will be divided among the illustrator part and the ideator. In case there will be more than one illustrator and more than one ideator, their 50% money prize will be splitted in the number of them.

Example: a book presented by one illustrator and two ideators. The money prize will be divided like 50% to the illustrator, 50% (25%+25%) to the two ideators.

****** In case that the winning project is a work created by a student as part of a course of study at Schools or Academies of Illustration, if the School or Academy deems it appropriate, it may be cited as a third party in the publishing contract. Any distribution of the cash prize provided between the Student and the School remains a private agreement between these two parties, it being understood that the entire sum of the prize will in any case be counted as an advance on royalties for the winning Author.

8. The International Jury has the final decision: to not admit in competition book projects not corresponding to what is specified and contained in the Rules and / or Participation Procedure, to nominate among the projects admitted to the competition a number lower than 10 of finalists or a number higher than 16, and also reserves the right not to proclaim a winner of the Silent Book Contest 2027 if the projects are not worthy of publication.
9. In addition to the International Jury Prize, thanks to the collaboration with the Salone Internazionale del Libro di Torino and the support of BPER Banca, from 2020 there is also the **Junior Prize. Between September and November 2027** the finalists will be **judged** from a selected number of classes of primary schools coming from different regions of Italy and some territories outside Italy. The finalist that will receive the highest score from the kids will become the winner of the Silent Book Contest Junior by the month of December 2027 and the book will be **published by Carthusia Edizioni in the first months of 2028**. Also in this case, Carthusia can decide to do not publish the book if it considered inappropriate.
10. To enroll in the contest the Authors have to accept the Rules and Participation Methods and the payment of a **registration fee of Euro 60 (sixty) for each project submitted**. The payment of the registration fee must be made only **by 15th January 2027**. It is possible to present a maximum of three unpublished projects for each author. The payment of the enrollment fee is not refundable.

ENROLLMENT PROCEDURE

- A. The book project must be wordless, without any words that help decode the development of the story, with the exception of the title and any subtitle. Should the composition of the image include the placement of words within one or more plates, these must be purely decorative and must not in any way help the reader decode the story.

The narrative must be achieved exclusively through illustrations and must have narrative and stylistic coherence. There are no restrictions regarding age groups and/or types of readers, nor regarding genre, and the theme is open.

The International Jury reserves the right at its sole discretion to assess the adequacy and correspondence of the projects presented in the competition with the characteristics specified above and to confirm whether or not they are admitted.

The Author undertakes, under his sole responsibility, to ensure that the illustrations included in the book project are original and unpublished works in all the countries of the world, as well as the project presented in the competition, absolving the organization, the International Jury and the publisher Carthusia Edizioni who will publish the winning book project, from any moral and legal responsibility in case of projects book and / or illustrations presented in violation of this regulation, copyright and / or in case of plagiarism to third parties.

- B. **Book projects containing illustrations with single words or partial texts that help decode the story will not be accepted for selection.** Pop-up books, cartoons and comic strips without words and "colouring book" will not be accepted. Furthermore, book projects containing photographic images, or that are not illustrated, or that do not correspond to the present definition of illustrated images will also not be accepted for selection. It's also forbidden the usage of images

generated by Artificial Intelligence softwares for the creation of the work, even if partially.

- C. The illustrations of the book project may be created in color or in black and white, using any traditional or digital technique and on any medium.

Storyboards or non-final illustrations will not be accepted. The book project must be final and not a work in progress.

- D. The project must be presented on double pages with an open format of 57 cms in width and 28.5 cms in height (closed format 28.5x28.5cms and opening from right to left). Number of double pages is prefixed: **14 internal double pages of 57x28,5 cms, 1 double page as frontispiece with dedication, front and back cover (total 16 double pages).**

For the cover: Front and back of the cover must be included together in one double artboard, placing the front cover on the right and the back on the left. Total dimension of the artboard is 57 x 28,5.

Frontispiece: Here you will have to add dedication (optional), title and pseudonym of the author, but you'll be also able to add graphic details and illustrations at your choice.

Dedication: It is a text to specify to who or what you want to dedicate your silent story.

Attention:

- Do not add bleed areas, margins or crop marks.
 - The Book projects sent in different format, due to excess or defect, from the one specified above and / or exceeding by excess or defect by the number of pages will not be admitted in the competition.
- E. The book project must be presented scrupulously following these indications:
- Layout complete composed of 14 double pages + double page with dedication on the left and frontispiece on the right + front and back cover in the format indicated at point D (total number of pages 16).
 - The complete layout, as described above, must be sent exclusively as a digital file in high quality PDF format by 15th January 2027. To send the digital book project, refer to the section "Online registration procedure and submitting procedure".
- F. Will not be admitted to the selection: book projects with partial or incomplete layouts and book projects exceeding, due to excess or defect, from the dimensions specified in point D and exceeding excess or defect from the number of pages in point D. Will not be admitted projects submitted in a manner other than those listed in the dedicated section or sent after 15th January 2027. Do not send original illustrations and paper layouts.
- G. Book projects must be sent anonymously.
- H. The digital layout must show only the title of the project on the front cover, which should be considered as temporary with regard to any possible publishing as a winning book project (It will be chosen and confirmed together with the publisher), and the author's pen-name. The digital files must be named exclusively with the title of the Opera/Project, the author's chosen pseudonym and its nationality. See the following "Online registration procedure and submitting materials" section for instructions on how to properly name the PDF file.
- I. The subscription to the Silent Book Contest 2027 - Gianni De Conno Award, the upload of the PDF file and the payment of the enrolment fee (with PayPal or credit Card) must be done exclusively online on our website www.silentbookcontest.com following all the given instructions. All the procedure must be completed within the 15th January 2027.

- J. Right of Exclusive: Every finalist promises to grant his/her selected book project finalist in exclusive and for free to Carthusia Edizioni as main organizer of the Silent Book Contest for the purposes of the exhibition in shows, art or illustration related events, Fairs, Reviews etc, for the period of one year running from the date of closing of the registrations (or from the possible extension of the aforesaid date) of the Silent Book Contest 2027. The authors of those book projects selected as finalists should send the illustrations of the book projects according to the instructions and procedures provided by the Silent Book Contest Secretary's Office, in order to prepare and present the exhibitions of the finalists projects established by the organization.
- K. **Carthusia Edizioni reserves the right to propose to one or more non-winning finalists the publication of their book project and insert it in the "Silent Book" series. Since Carthusia has increased the number of published finalists during these years, it will have a pre-emption on the publication of the finalist works with the possibility, until end of October 2028, to communicate to the author finalist the desire of publishing his work.** This publication may come in fact from June 2027, at least 1 month after the publication of the winning work. After this date, the finalist authors on whose works the pre-emption right has not been exercised will be free to propose and publish their book project with any publisher.
- L. Following what said at the point K, none of the finalist authors of the Silent Book Contest 2027 will be able to sign any publishing contract or propose their finalist work to any publisher other than Carthusia before November 2028. From the end of November 2028, the finalist authors on whose works the right of first refusal has not been exercised will be free to propose and publish their book project with any publisher.
- M. The Author of the book project that the International Jury will proclaim as winner will have to provide the digital files in high definition of the illustrations of the project accordingly to the indications that will be provided by the publisher before the publication.
- N. Book projects enrolled in the Silent Book Contest 2027 cannot be simultaneously registered and / or selected and / or winners in other competitions and / or events.
- O. All the finalist book projects may be published by Carthusia or by other publishers (always respecting the point K) exclusively in the form of books without words, since adding text to the work would invalidate the meaning of the competition.

ONLINE REGISTRATION AND SUBMITTING MATERIAL PROCEDURE

1. REGISTRATION:

Access to the website www.silentbookcontest.com and then to the "ENTER THE CONTEST" section, fill in the registration form on-line with all the required data (insert an active and valid e-mail address), confirm that you have read and accepted the Terms and Conditions. You will receive at the e-mail address you have entered a personal code and password to access to your personal area where you will be able to upload and send the **PDF file of your project**.

2. HOW TO PREPARE THE PDF FILE:

- For each book project submitted in competition (max 3 per Author) a complete layout must be created in PDF digital format as specified in D and E of the Rules.

- The layout must be in a single digital file of **maximum 10Mb** and exclusively in high quality PDF format and must be named exclusively with the pseudonym chosen by the Author followed by the Title, as in the example: **Pseudo-ProjectTitle-Country.pdf**

- **Attention:** when naming PDF files, do not leave spaces between the words, only use hyphens or underscores to separate the author's pen name from the title and do not use numbers and special characters.

- The system does not accept PDF files larger than 10 Mb and files other than PDF format, ZIP files and other compressed formats.
- Do not send paper or original illustrations. The paper layouts and the original illustrations sent will not be returned.
- The deadline for registration and submission of PDF files is 15th January 2027.

3. SENDING OF THE FILE:

Access the personal area with the link you received via e-mail, enter your personal code and password, confirm and send the PDF file following the instructions. You can access your personal area at any time to replace your PDF file or insert additional projects (max 3 for each Author), until the registration deadline of 15th January 2027 is closed. **You can replace a PDF file only once.**

4. PAYMENT AND SUBSCRIPTION CONFIRMATION:

Wait for confirmation of the upload the PDF file and proceed with payment of the registration fee by following the instructions. When the payments is accepted you will receive at your e-mail the enrollment confirmation.

The payment of the registration fee (Euro 60 for each project sent) must be made exclusively on-line with a credit card, prepaid card or PayPal. Registration is confirmed exclusively and only after confirmation of payment of the registration fee. The cancellation of the sending or payment procedure automatically deletes any PDF file already sent. In this case, re-enter into your personal area and repeat the uploading of the PDF file and payment.

Attention: To send additional book projects (max 3 per Author), access your personal area and repeat the procedure to send and to pay for each project.

**The International Silent Book Contest – Gianni De Conno Award 2027 is
organized and promoted by Carthusia Edizioni**

In collaboration with Bologna Children's Book Fair, Salone Internazionale del libro di Torino, Comune di Mulazzo
Associazione Montereccio Paese dei Librai, IOB International Organisation of Book Town

With the patronage of Ibby Italia and under the auspices of Centro per
Libro e la Lettura (Cepell)

With the contribution of BPER Banca.

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