



ARS
IN
FAB
ULA

MASTER

MASTER
in illustration
for publishing

XIX Edition

Academic year
2026 — 27

ARS IN FABULA THE PICTURE BOOK ACADEMY

Leader in the publishing field of the illustrated book for children and young people, the school of Macerata, Andersen Award 2011 for education, has been the professional springboard for many young talents.

Beside: covers by
Master graduate
Margaux Romano
from "Al mio passo",
Kite 2026.

Daniela Vizzino from
"Il bambino sull'albero"
Orecchio Acerbo 2026

Monica Garofalo
from "Cocco a chi?"
La Margherita 2026

Daniela Vitale
from "il Cavaliere
Filiberto"
Ideestortepaper 2026

On front cover
details from the
illustrations by
Master graduate
Margaux Romano,
from "Al mio Passo"
Kite 2026

On back cover: details
from the illustrations by
Master graduate
Mariapaola Bossini,
from "Il meglio di un
pompiero" thesis
project for
Il Leone Verde

The kids' field has been holding a role of main importance for a long time in the publishing field and in the last ten years it has experienced a great development. The illustrator who deals with this field is a professional to whom knowledge and specific skills are requested. Organisational, narrative and management ability must combine with creativity and stylistic originality. Ars in Fabula is the illustration school specialised in this field. Born in 2001 in Macerata, it is located in the rooms of Palazzo Compagnoni Marefoschi, one of the most important buildings of the city, work of Luigi Vanvitelli.

Founded by the illustrator Mauro Evangelista, Andersen Award 2008 and 2012, it boasts teachers well-known all over the world: illustrators, writers, editors, graphic designers, agents and literary critics. In 2008 we established the first Master in Italy for editorial illustration, in collaboration with the Academy of Fine Arts of Macerata, obtaining recognition from the Ministry of University and Research. Ars in Fabula has always dealt with publishing and it is recognised in the sector for the level of preparation of its graduates. Many, in fact, are the professional illustrators who studied at Ars in Fabula and that now work at international level participating

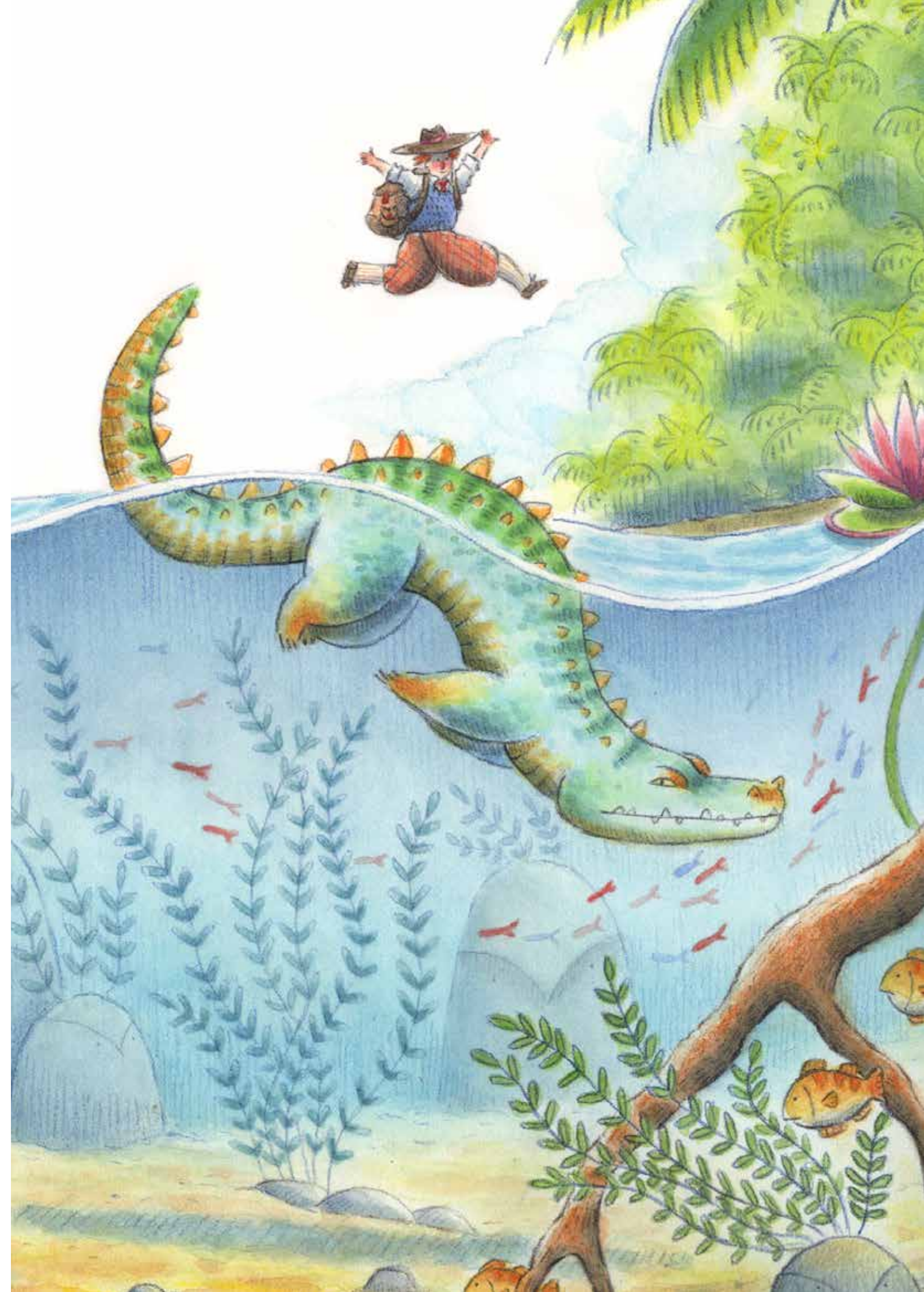


From above
cover by Master
graduate
from "Cosa?
Diventerò fratello
maggiore?",
Ed. Arka, 2025.

From above
and beside cover
and illustration by
Master graduate
Dafne Bessone,
from "All'Avventura",
Sinnos, 2026.



in the most important exhibitions of the sector: the Illustrators Exhibition of the Children's Book Fair of Bologna, the Biennial of Bratislava and the Biennial Ilustrarte of Lisbon. Another pride of the school is the inclusion, among our graduates, two Andersen Awards as Illustrators of the Year: of Marco Somà and Claudia Palmarucci. There are different courses offers at the school and the Master in Illustration for Publishing is the focal point of the artistic and professional advanced training that represented for a lot of students the entrance to the world of work with the publication of the first book. Ars in Fabula received the Andersen Award for the education in 2011.





MASTER IN ILLUSTRATION FOR PUBLISHING

The original and innovative training course created by Ars in Fabula for the Master was born with the purpose of training professionals for one of the most important publishing sectors through a specific path of advanced training.



*Illustration by Master
graduate
Sara De Giorgi from
"La Grande Montagna",
thesis project for
release with
Camelozampa.*

Learning while working: this is the basic philosophy of the Master Ars in Fabula. The students immediately deal with real publishing commissions and are followed by high level teachers. We created a wide net of partners composed of more than sixty publishing houses and every year we work to select the most interesting book projects to assign for the course.

Learning while working, this is the
Ars in Fabula philosophy

Each student is followed, in his own project, by teachers who are illustrators, italian and foreign publishers, critics and internationally renowned literary agents with a solid didactic experience behind. The projects assigned by the editors are on original texts and planned for the publication so, if the student's work satisfies the editorial needs, the book is published

*Illustration by Master
graduate
Mariapaola Bossini from
"Il meglio di un pompie-
re", thesis project for
Il Leone Verde*

with regular contract. Countless are the book projects made during the Master that have been published in these years by international and italian publishing houses, offering the students a real occasion to express their own talent and

walk through the door of the professional world. Also a lot of recognition in the main exhibitions of the sector as the Children's Book Fair of Bologna, the Biennial of Bratislava, the Biennial of Lisbon Ilustrarte.





THE TRAINING PATH OF THE MASTER

Duration one year. 1500 hours of lessons with leading professionals of the sector in the international field in order not to leave your book... in the drawer.



*Illustration by Master
graduate
Elena Pennelli from
"Il Signor Comesto",
thesis project for
release with
Ed Arka.*

The one-year course is divided into four modules of alternatively frontal lessons, in e-learning, and individual study. It begins on October 12th 2026 with the first module, from October to December, a preparatory phase in which illustrators, editors and experts in the publishing field will alternate, with exercises on various areas of illustration. This is a very important step because the Teaching Commission assigns the book-projects to the students based on the portfolio submitted for the selection to the course and the results of the work of these weeks. This stage is characterized by the study of editorial issues such as the analysis of the texts, that of the authors of the book projects and the study of the catalog of the partner publishing houses. At the end of this phase the projects will be assigned. Each student from this moment will be engaged in the development of the text received. Moreover, the second module of the Master is characterized by individual study and online classes, where issues related to the history of illustration and children's literature are addressed.

This is above all the period of the personal experimentation, where students will be guided in their research with the aim of formulating narrative, stylistic and technical proposals for their project. The student is individually followed with weekly checks and through collective monthly reviews by coordinating teachers both for the artistic and for the editorial part.

Deadline for submitting admission applications: September 14th 2026

At the end of the experimentation, the first proposal of the project is formulated and each student will meet their publisher, supported by tutors, to expose the work. In the third module, the programme includes frontal lessons, in e-learning, from May to June, the project finds its definition based on the publisher's feedback. In this module, the teachers are mainly illustrators and the goal is to follow the students in the development of the project, especially on the pictorial and narrative side. Then we enter the final phase of the course, the fourth module, where the student completes the project, always followed by the coordinators, for the presentation to the publisher and the final thesis.

Illustration by Master graduate Olga Barbieri from "Lupetto cerca amici", thesis project for ZOOlibri.



DIDACTICS

Exceptional teachers for a cutting-edge course in artistic and professional education, selected for the high profile and the consolidated teaching experience.

The book is the outcome of a team work where different points of view are compared and it is necessary to consider and mediate other actors' opinions. It follows that it's necessary to compose a teaching staff made up of professional illustrators, publishers, writers, scholars and experts in the field.

Many points of view for one goal:
the picture book

The central idea that connects the different souls who constitute the teaching staff of the school Ars in Fabula on the didactics is the firm belief they don't have to pass on preconceived formulas, ready-made recipes. Especially on the artistic side, when a personal style comes to light, it is also the result of inner investigation, the work on one's own limitations and strong points.

The teacher is the one who can motivate the emergence of this interiority, interpret the signs and stimulate the student's work in one direction

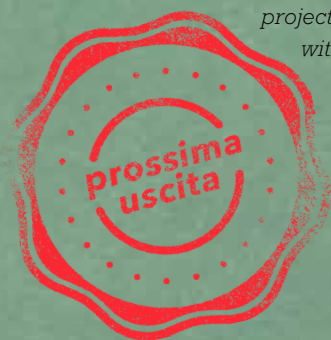
*illustration by Master
graduate
Daniela Vitale from "Il
Cavaliere Filiberto"
Ideestortepaper 2026.*





illustration by Master
graduate
Lenu Banci from
"Il libro senza prota-
gonista", thesis
project for release
with Uovonero

or another. The technique, graphical or picto-
rial, will be the result of a stylistic achievement,
the most suitable tool for an expressive need.
Indeed, Ars in Fabula has stood out for the diver-
sity and originality of their students' style, attri-
butable neither to their teachers nor to the trends
of the moment.



ARS IN FABULA, AN ILLUSTRATED STORY

More than three hundred are the "books made in Ars" both Master theses and illustrated books born from the many opportunities offered by the advanced training course. With a pinch of pride we like to say that... our history is written in your books.



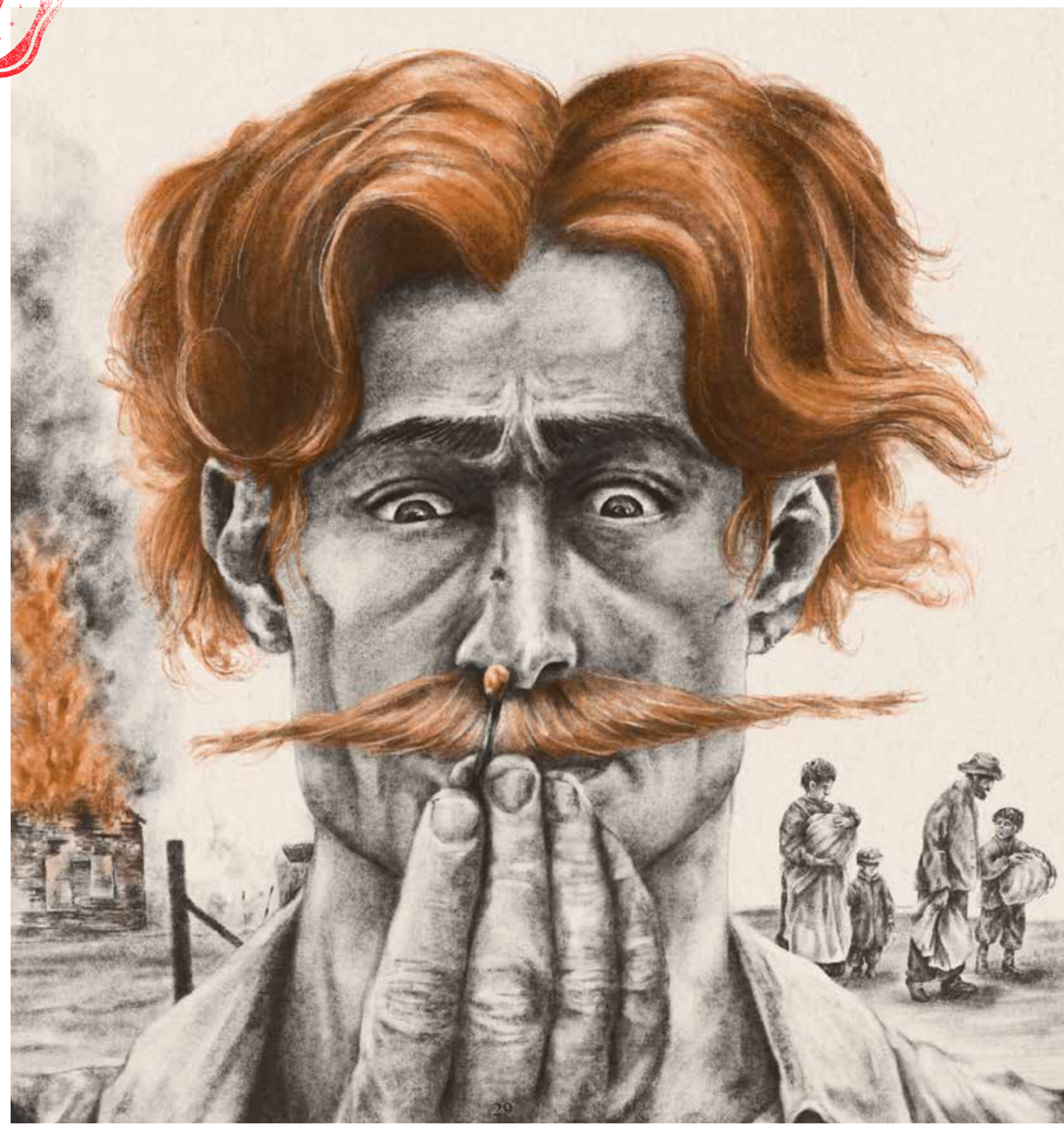
Even when you are already a good illustrator or you have a unique sign or you have already attended some illustration courses, it is always very difficult to find a publisher open to assign a project to those whom have never done this before. Often, the thing an editor cannot see in a portfolio is whether the would-be illustrator has narrative skills, if he/she can handle the job and the relationship with the publisher, if he/she meets deadlines, if he/she can represent the text and give it a proper interpretation or be stylistically logical in the images and the list goes on. That's why this course is not designed as a normal educational path but has been structured around real working stages of the picture book. This permits the students to approach the professional world supported by exceptional professionals.

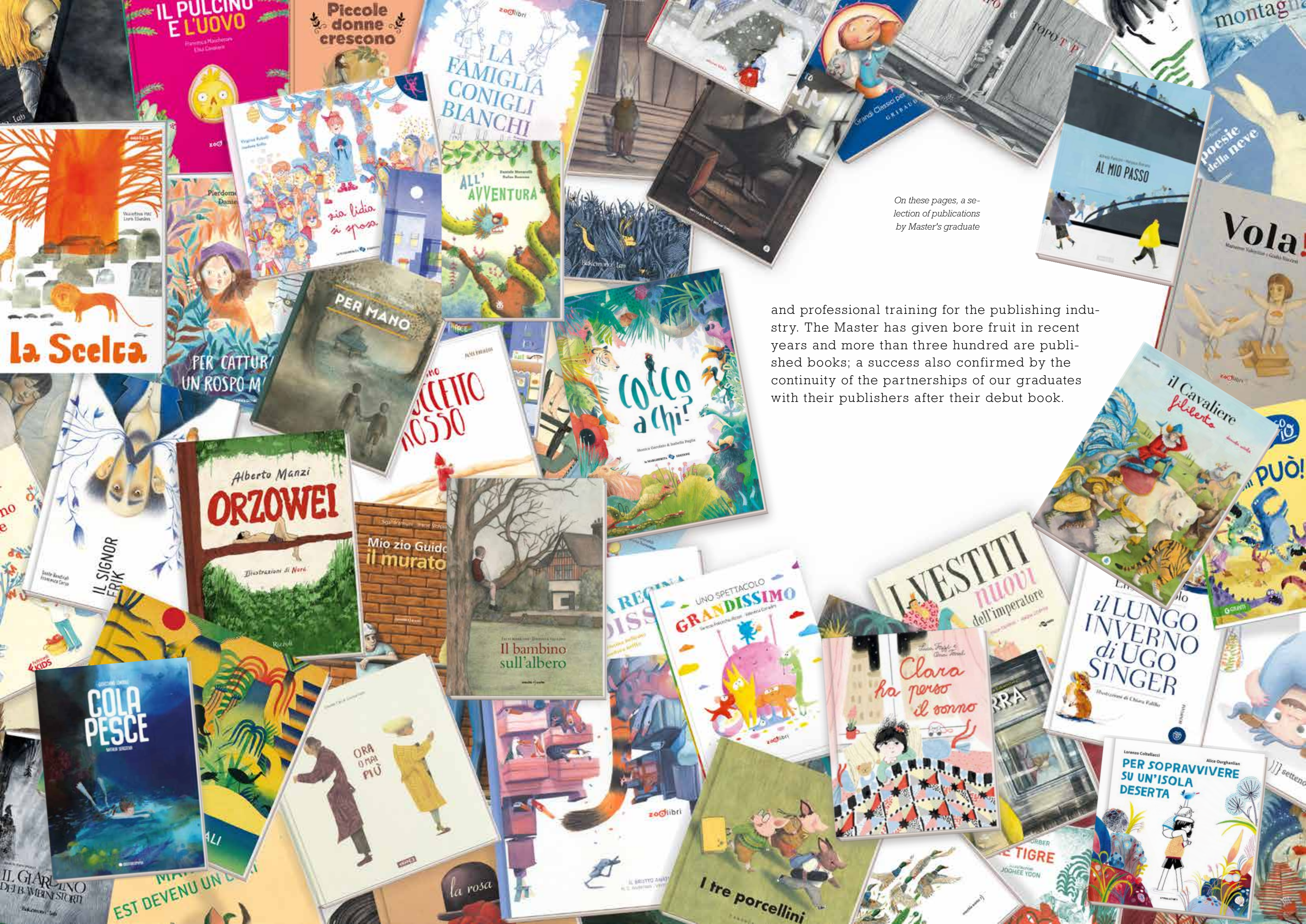
Master Ars in Fabula:
26 publishing projects each year

Great is the effort of the school in building each academic year and in managing with partner publishers the projects on which the students of

*Illustration by Master
graduate
Maria Chiara Errico
from "I due fiammiferi",
thesis project for
release with
Orecchio Acerbo.*

the Master work.
An original formula and a constant engagement have made Ars in Fabula Master an advanced course in the international arena in the artistic





On these pages, a selection of publications by Master's graduate

and professional training for the publishing industry. The Master has given bore fruit in recent years and more than three hundred are published books; a success also confirmed by the continuity of the partnerships of our graduates with their publishers after their debut book.

ARS IN FABULA PARTNERS

Sixty of the most prestigious publishing houses in the publishing scene to test your talent.



From the small to the big publisher, from that specialized in publications for the first childhood to educational, from fiction for children to that for adults: the Master Ars in Fabula offers its students the largest and the most representative publishing scene. The partner publishers have a central role in the Master, both with frontal teaching in the classroom and the tutoring of students' work.

Ars in Fabula: professionals are made!

Illustration by Master graduate Alessandra Cannella from "C'era una volta la street art", thesis project for release with Artebambini.

The assigned projects can be: classical texts, texts by contemporary writers and all have been selected for publication. Obviously, this is a considerable effort for publishers, who have to wait for the entire duration of the course to see the final results instead of the normal length of working for the illustrations of a book. While they already know what to expect by a professional illustrator, it is not the same with a student at his/her first real experience and it is always exciting to see the evolutions, the achievements which often come sudden and surprising. It's something more, then, than just seeing the

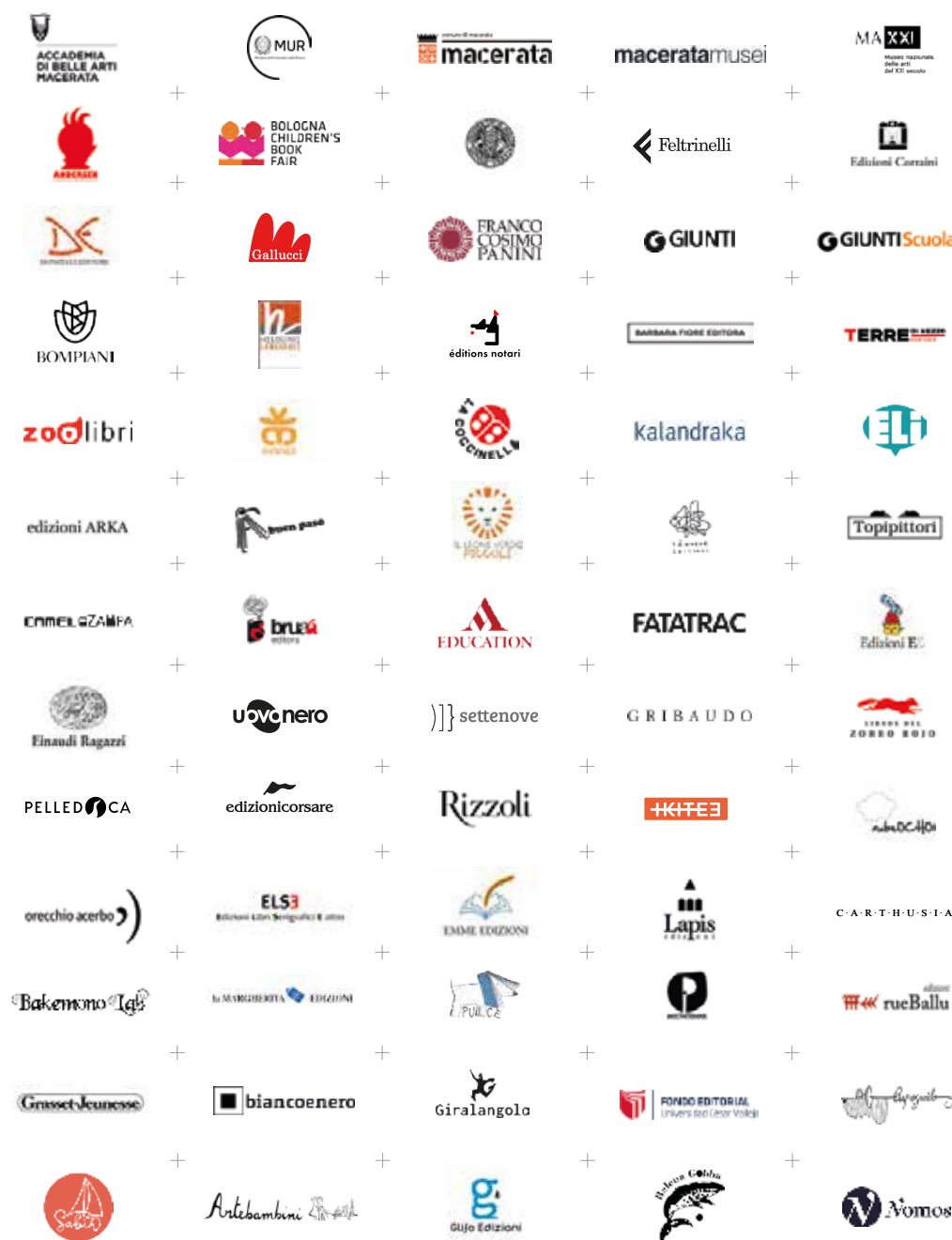




Cover by Master graduate Natalia Sergeeva from "20000 leghe sotto i mari", Ideestortepaper, 2026.



Cover dy Master graduate Virginia Clericetti from "Il più grande spettacolo", Orecchio Acerbo, 2026.



Cover from Master graduate giò Marin from "Darcy mi piaci tu" and "Darcy ti salvo io", ZOOLibri, 2026;

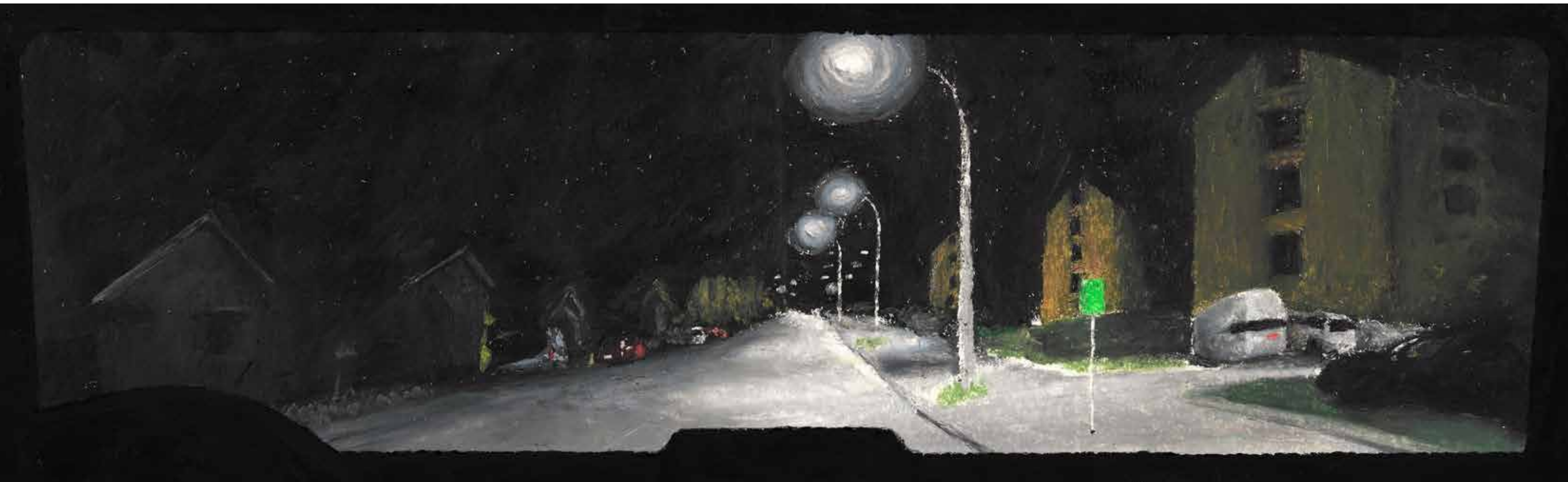
Cover from Master graduate Zdenka Strigaro from "Il riposino", Settenove, 2026.

birth of a book; the challenge is to see a new talent flourish. Great is also the research and development work of the school, under the aegis of Alessandra Sconosciuto, for the selection and the drafting of the twentysix book-projects, one per student, that each year the course provides. Each project has been discussed and structured with the publishers in the same way as a normal editorial board. But big is also the research of new partners to offer an increasingly large panorama and greater opportunities.

ARS IN FABULA GRANT AWARD

Ars in Fabula and the Book Fair
honour the talent.

Since 2012 the prize is assigned each year to a young illustrator, who is under 30, already selected for the Illustrators Exhibition of the Children's Book Fair, but still unpublished. The award is assigned by a selection board composed of Master teachers who meet in Bologna for the Fair. In 2023 the BCBF dedicated to us an important exhibition, on the occasion of the Book Fair, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the prize. An international window, a prestigious



*Illustration by Roberto
Hofer Asencio,
Grant Award 2026
winner, from "Route 9
north".*

The Ars in Fabula Grant Award has now become one of the usual appointments among the Bologna Children's Book Fair prizes.

The prize was born with the aim of training and supporting new talents in the illustration, through the advanced training path: this target fulfils both the desire of young promising illustrators to receive a proper training, and the need of the publishers to find new styles and colours for their books.

contribution to the enhancement of young talents Ars in Fabula. (The catalog is available on [Ars in Fabula](#) and [BCBF](#) websites).





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The picture book academy

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