




*International  
Illustration  
Contest*



# **LA CITTÀ E L'ACQUA** **The city** **AND WATER**

**Guidelines of participation of the call for entries for the  
4th Edition of the BOit! International Illustration Contest**

# SUMMARY

ART.1	
<b>Overview</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Theme of the Fourth Edition</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Bibliography curated by Cunegunde</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Bologna and its invisible water system</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>The shape of the Fourth Edition</b>	<b>5</b>
ART.2	
<b>Conditions for participation</b>	<b>6</b>
ART.3	
<b>How to Apply</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Layout</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Participation Fee</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Required documentation</b>	<b>8</b>
ART.4	
<b>Terms and conditions for submission</b>	<b>8</b>
ART.5	
<b>Jury</b>	<b>9</b>
ART.6	
<b>Selected Works</b>	<b>9</b>
ART.7	
<b>Awards</b>	<b>9</b>
ART.8	
<b>Contact us</b>	<b>9</b>
	
ART.9	
<b>SECTION 1 Consent to Personal Data Processing</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>SECTION 2 Application form</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>SECTION 3 Release form</b>	<b>12</b>

## Art. 1

### Overview

**BOit! is an international illustration contest born in Bologna and open to a global audience. Its aim is to promote creative work, foster professional growth, and encourage international exchange among emerging illustrators and visual artists.**

**Each edition challenges participants to engage with a specific shape and theme inspired by the city of Bologna, sparking a broader conversation on topics of universal relevance. From the local to the global: BOit! celebrates the language of illustration through an open and inclusive competition, with a special focus on original, unpublished contributions by young creatives.**

### Theme of the Fourth Edition

***The City and the Water. Rivers, canals, waterways: a constant flow that shapes nature and urban development*** is the motto for this edition.

Like every edition, our journey begins in Bologna, the city where BOit! was born, drawing inspiration from its history and geography to explore ideas with wide-ranging, international resonance.

The fourth edition of the contest sets out to explore the deep, visceral bond between water and the city – **between water and civilization, between water and humanity itself.**

Water is the lifeblood of civilization: from rivers to canals, from streams to fountains, it is a vital force that has always shaped history, cultural evolution, and urban development. For countless cities, great and small, water serves as a common thread, a timeline that weaves together past, present, and future.

This contest invites reflection on water as an origin, a force, and a symbol. Participants are called to explore, through illustration, the intricate relationship between water and the urban landscape – starting from their own city, an imagined one, or even Bologna itself as inspiration, yet always with a gaze that embraces the entire world, whether real or imaginary.

***What stories do waterways can tell us? How do they intertwine with the destiny of cities? What role will they play in shaping the future of our communities?***

These questions serve as the starting point for a visual narrative as fluid as water itself – flowing between past, present, and future, between the local and the global, between reality and imagination!

As the human-water connection has been deeply explored in literature, we decided to collaborate with **Cunegunde**, an Italian association working on educational projects that promotes the children's literature in schools. We invited them to create for us a special **bibliography**: an inspiring starting point for your illustrations in this fourth edition!

**EXPLORE THE BIBLIOGRAPHY CURATED BY CUNEGUNDE!**



## Bibliography for *The City and Water*

### BOOKS

- Tim Bowler**, *River Boy*. Oxford (1997)
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- Candiani. C.**, *Sogni del fiume*. Giulio Einaudi Editore (2022)
- Joseph Conrad**, *Heart of Darkness*. (1902)
- Godden. R.**, *The River*. Pan Books. Unabridged edition (2004)
- Grahame. K.**, *The wind in the willows*. Henry Holt and Co. (1980)
- Maria Gripe**, *The Glassblowers Children*. NYRB Childrens Collection (2011)
- Rudyard Kipling**, *The Jungle Book*. Macmillan (1894)
- Manzi, A.**, *Il lungo viaggio di Einar*. Gallucci editore (2024)
- Michael McDowell**, *Blackwater I: The Flood*, Ransworld Publishers Ltd (2024)
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- Morosinotto. D.**, *Il fiore perduto dello sciamano di K*. Edizioni Mondadori (2019).
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- Emilio Salgari**, *The King of the Sea*, ROH Press (1906)
- J. R. R. Tolkien**, *The Lord of the Rings*, Allen & Unwin Publisher (1954-1955)
- Mark Twain**, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Chatto&Windus/Charles L.Webster & Co. (1884)
- Van Den Brink. H. M.**, *On the Water*. Grove Press (2001)
- Jules Verne**, *Journey to the Center of the Earth* (1864)

### ILLUSTRATED BOOKS

- Andersen. H. C., Mazzoni. M.**, *Mignolina*. Rizzoli (2019)
- Brown. A.** *Hansel e Gretel*. Word United Ltd (2008)
- Darwin. C. Negrin. F.**, *The Riverbank*. Creative Co (2009)
- Keen. T.**, *Journey to the Last River*. Frances Lincoln Children's Books (2021)
- Melvin. A. Snow. W.**, *Mouse on the River: A Journey Through Nature*. Thames&Hudson (2024)
- Sanna. A.**, *Fiume lento: un viaggio lungo il Po*. Rizzoli (Silent book) (2019)
- Sanna. A.**, *Saltafossi*. Gallucci (2024)
- Scott. J. Smith. S.**, *I Talk Like a River*. Neal Porter Books (2020)
- Vaicenavičienė. M.**, *Che cos'è un fiume?*. Topipittori (2019)

## Bologna and its Invisible Water

Bologna is a city that holds onto its bond with water in discreet, almost hidden ways. A distracted traveller might assume there is no trace of running water among its arcades (*portici*) and streets: apparently no great river cuts through the historic center, and yet, Bologna is deeply shaped by its relationship with water..

In the past, Bologna's canals formed a dense, visible, and navigable network – arteries for trade and urban life. These waterways sustained a thriving commercial network, ensuring prosperity for the city.

But it wasn't just goods that traveled through canals: ideas and people flowed as well, fostering exchange and cultural encounters.

Today, the majority of those waterways run beneath the surface, invisible yet still alive – a silent reminder of how deeply water has shaped the city. A testament to this legacy is the Fountain of Neptune in Piazza Maggiore, a masterpiece of the Italian Renaissance sculpted between 1563 and 1567 by the Flemish artist Jean de Boulogne, known as Giambologna.

This monument is not merely an homage to deity of the sea; today, it stands as a reflection on how water has shaped civilizations throughout history – including urban centers like Bologna.

Water has always been an element of life, but also of power: cities that mastered their water systems or had the means to defend against them thrived as commercial hubs. Bologna, in particular, has been a leader in silk production since the 15th century. The availability of water resources, combined with the advanced technology of silk mills, allowed a city with no significant natural waterways or access to the sea to play a predominant role in the European proto-industrial landscape and international trade for over four centuries.

## The shape of the Fourth Edition

The shape of the fourth edition of the BOit! Contest is inspired by something real, yet open to imagination: the “finestrella,” the famous squared little window on Via Piella in Bologna overlooking the Moline Canal.

This frame becomes an access to imaginative possibilities, inviting to reflect on the relationship between the city and water—as a source of life, energy, and connection. A square through which to focus one's gaze, a threshold between who we are and what we see—and imagine.

***The BOit! International Illustration Contest invites artists to interpret this theme by creating one or more illustrations—up to a maximum of three—within the template provided in Annex A of the call. The choice of technique is entirely open (Art. 3).***





## Art. 2

### Conditions for participation

1. This call is open to all Italian and foreign citizens, whether resident in Italy or abroad, that have turned at least 18 years old before the contest deadline, including any extended deadlines that may be announced.
2. Applicants are responsible for the originality of their submission, must guarantee its authorship, and release the organizers from any liability arising from third-party claims regarding copyright and related rights.
3. Each candidate may submit up to three different proposals, which must be uploaded separately through the form on the website as part of a single application.
4. Members of organizing committee this contest, individuals involved in the drafting of the call or its documentation, members of the jury, and their relatives or associates — including those with collaborative and/or professional relationships of any kind — are not allowed to participate.
5. Proposals will also be excluded in case of incomplete or incorrect documentation, submission after the deadline (11:59 PM CEST on the closing date), or violation of the rules outlined in this guidelines.

## Art. 3

### How to Apply

The shape for the 2025 edition is a square, **30 x 30 cm**, inspired by the iconic view over the Moline canal: the small window on Via Piella in Bologna.

Each participant may submit up to three different proposals via the dedicated form available at [www.bo-it.org](http://www.bo-it.org), in the **Participate** section, **starting from April 15th, 2025**.

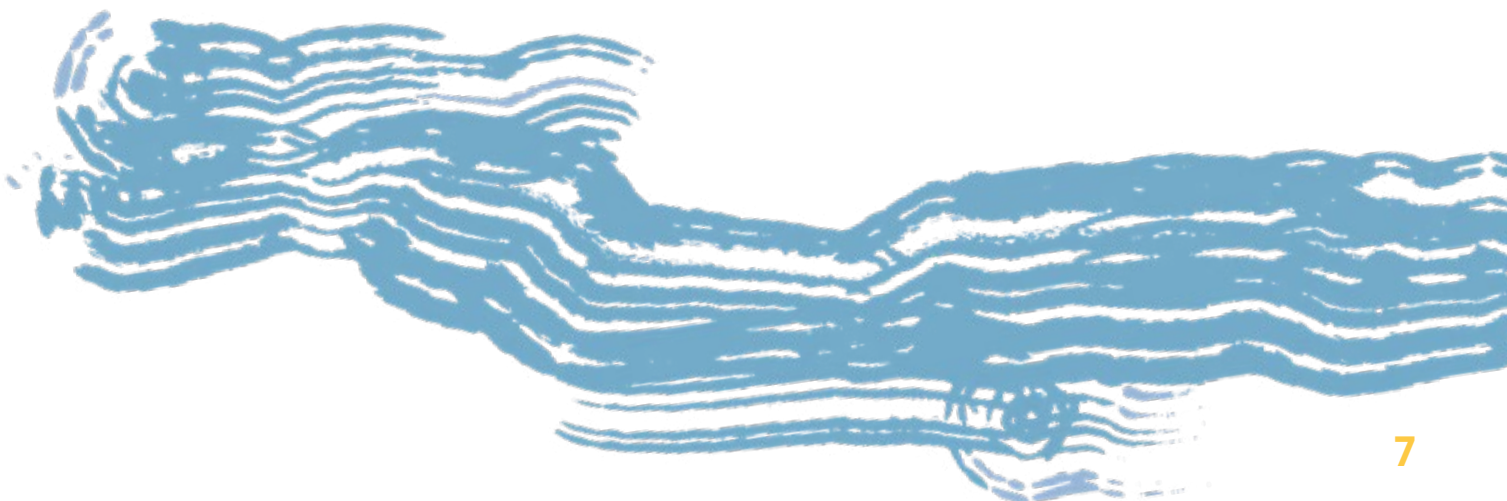
## Layout

- 1. Proposals must be created using the provided shape and respecting the indicated dimensions.** The official template (**Annex A**) within which the illustration must be developed is provided as an attachment.
- 2.** The jury will evaluate submissions based on the criteria of originality, quality, clarity, visual storytelling ability, and relevance to the theme “Water and the City”.
- 3.** Artworks may be created using any manual or digital technique, according to the following specifications:
  - a. Manual works** (on paper/cardboard, collage, photography, or other media) **must be scanned and submitted digitally in JPEG or PDF format, with a maximum size of 1 MB.** They must clearly and unambiguously match the shape provided in Annex A, with real dimensions of **30 x 30 cm (1:1 scale)**. In the case of collage, any images used must be free from copyright restrictions.
  - b. Digital artworks** must also be submitted in **JPEG or PDF format**, with a **maximum file size of 1 MB.**

If selected, **authors will be asked to provide a high-resolution scan (300 dpi)** of the original artwork, maintaining the real dimensions of **30 x 30 cm (1:1 scale)**.

- 4.** Applications may be submitted **individually or collectively (as co-authors)**. Each participant, whether alone or as part of a group, may submit a **maximum of three original proposals** that have not been published before under any circumstances.
- 5.** Submissions must not contain any identifying information about the author(s). The organizing committee will assign an alphanumeric code to each artwork to ensure anonymity.
- 6.** Participants **must not publish** their submitted works before the official communication of the contest results.
- 7.** The submission of a work created using AI is a **ground for exclusion** from the contest.

**Participants declare and guarantee that the ideas, projects, and artworks submitted are their exclusive intellectual property — including both copyright and economic rights — and that no third party holds any exclusive rights over them.**



## Participation Fee

Participation requires the payment of a **registration fee of €15.00**, as a contribution for administrative costs.

A reduced **fee of €10.00** is available **for students** enrolled in art schools and/or universities. To qualify for the reduced fee, applicants must submit proof of student status along with the application (e.g., student ID card, certificate of enrollment, or other appropriate documentation).

**Registration will be confirmed only upon receipt of the payment of the registration fee.**

Payment must be made exclusively online using a credit card, prepaid card, or PayPal.

### Payment can be made:

Online via the following link:

Liberal contribution	>	<a href="https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/E7VNA362NQB8Q">https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/E7VNA362NQB8Q</a>
Student / Liberal contribution	>	<a href="https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/WWGQM9LHRHALN">https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/WWGQM9LHRHALN</a>

or by bank transfer to the account:

**ASSOCIAZIONE ALTROVE**

IBAN: IT60Q0623012605000031320631

BIC: CRPPIT2P005

Bank: **Crédit Agricole**

Payment reference: ***“Liberal contribution for the BOit! International Illustration Contest + Artist’s Last Name and First Name”***

## Required documentation for participation

**All materials must be submitted through the official website**

- **Annex A: shape reinterpreted by the author(s)**

Complete and sign these guidelines and attach it *in a single pdf document* together with the following section duly filled in and signed:

- **SECTION 1: Consent to personal data processing**
- **SECTION 2: Registration form**
- **SECTION 3: Release and data processing consent**
- **Receipt of payment whereas you have made the payment of the registration fee via bank transfer.**

If applicable:

- **Any certification of student status**

## Art.4

### Terms and conditions for submission

Applications must be submitted exclusively via the official website **www.bo-it.org**, using the dedicated form in the **Partecipate section**.

In case of technical difficulties, you can contact us via email:

**segreteria.boitcontest@gmail.com**

**Applications will be accepted from Tuesday, April 15th, 2025, and must be received by 11:59 PM (CEST) on Friday, August 15th, 2025.**



## Art.5

### Jury

Entries will be evaluated by a highly qualified jury composed of experts in the fields of illustration, visual communication, and representatives from supporting institutions. The selection and awarding of winning artworks will be at the sole discretion of the jury members.

The names of the jury members will be announced at least 15 days prior to the deadline via all official communication channels.

## Art.6

### Selected Works

**1.** The jury will select 30 finalist works, which will be displayed exhibitions. From these, three winning artworks will be chosen. Authors of selected works will be asked to provide a brief biography, which will be displayed during the exhibitions.

**2.** Participants **must not publish their submitted works** prior to the official announcement of the contest results.

**3.** The selected illustrations will be announced by the end of January 2026 on the official website and BOit! social media channels.

**4.** The winners will be announced during the awards ceremony and the inauguration of the exhibition of the selected works, which will be held in Bologna by 2026.

## Art.7

### Awards

Three winning works will be awarded. Prizes are not ranked and will include:

- **Award WATER AND THE CITY: cash prize of € 800.00**
- **Award SOLO EXHIBITION: a solo show of a creative project**
- **Award BELLE ARTI: a € 200.00 voucher for art supplies and materials**

**The organizing committee reserves the right to establish any additional awards and/or mentions.**

The Organization and the Jury reserve the right to suspend the initiative and not proceed with the awarding of prizes if the submitted works are not deemed deserving, or for any other reason that the Organization and the Jury consider valid

## Art.8

### Contact us

For any questions or clarifications regarding this call, please contact:  
**segreteria.boitcontest@gmail.com**



## SECTION 1

### Art.9

## Consent to Personal Data Processing

**In accordance with Article 13 of Legislative Decree 196/2003, we provide the following information for the consent of participants to the processing of personal data:**

- 1)** Data provided will be processed within the limits of privacy regulations, for the following purposes: project evaluation, project selection, meeting invitations, and all activities necessary for the implementation of the contest and compliance with legal obligations.
- 2)** Data processing may take place on paper and/or in digital format, in compliance with all security and confidentiality measures, and will be stored for the period required by civil and tax regulations.
- 3)** Providing personal data (name, surname, contact address and/or phone number) is required for participation in the “BO it!” contest. Refusal to provide this data will result in exclusion from the contest.
- 4)** We inform you that sensitive data (such as racial or ethnic origin, religious or philosophical beliefs, political opinions, union membership, health status, or sexual life) will not be processed without your explicit written consent.
- 5)** Personal data may be disclosed to members of the contest jury, as indicated in the present call, and to third parties appointed by Associazione ALTROVE to carry out administrative, fiscal, or legal activities, as well as to consultants or public authorities if required by law. Your data will not be publicly disclosed.
- 6)** The data controller is Associazione ALTROVE, based at Via Sesto San Giovanni 8, 40139, Bologna (BO), Italy.
- 7)** You may exercise your rights under Article 7 of the Privacy Code at any time by sending a request to: **associazione.culturale.altrove@gmail.com**. This includes requesting access to your data, its correction, deletion, or transformation into anonymous form, and opposing its processing for legitimate reasons.
- 8)** For more information on privacy rights, we invite you to visit the website of the Italian Data Protection Authority: [www.garanteprivacy.it](http://www.garanteprivacy.it)

**For additional details on the objectives of the “BO it!” contest, please visit:  
[www.bo-it.org](http://www.bo-it.org)**

Place, Day

Signature (legible)

.....

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## SECTION 2

### Application form for the Fourth Edition of the BOit! International Illustration Contest

Surname .....

Name .....

Place and date of birth .....

Address .....

Postcode ..... City ..... Province .....

Phone number (landline and/or mobile) .....

E-mail .....

Title of the submitted work .....

Technique and description of the artwork .....

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*I declare that the work is unpublished and that I hold full intellectual property rights over it.  
I acknowledge that the BOit! International Illustration Contest is entitled to reproduce my  
work on any type of media for the promotional purposes of the competition.  
I have read and accept all the terms and conditions of the contest regulation.*

Place, Day

.....

Signature (legible)

.....



## SECTION 3

### Release form

I, the undersigned .....  
resident in ..... (Province ..... )  
at the address .....  
born in ..... on ..... hereby agree to take part in the  
Fourth Edition of the BOit! International Illustration Contest.  
I declare that the attached work, entitled:

.....  
.....

is unpublished and original, and was created exclusively for this competition. No third party  
has any rights over the work.  
I hereby authorize the organizers to use the submitted work free of charge.

Place, Day

Signature (legible)

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.....

### Data processing consent

I, the undersigned .....  
authorize the Altrove Association to process my personal data for the purposes of  
participation in the contest and for the potential free publication of the submitted artwork  
through the official channels of the BOit! International Illustration Contest, including the  
website [www.bo-it.org](http://www.bo-it.org) and related social media.  
I hereby give my consent for the processing of my personal data pursuant to Articles 7 and  
following of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR).

Place, Day

Signature (legible)

.....

.....





FOURTH  
EDITION!



LA CITTÀ  
E L'ACQUA

# The city AND WATER

**PARTICIPATE!**