

Norway  
Guest of Honour  
Bologna Children's  
Book Fair 2026



# What if

## Official programme

Norway Café

What if illustration exhibition

Fair stages

City of Bologna



# Norway Café

Hall 30/A12-B9

## Monday 13th April

- 
- 13:00-13:25 **Three languages, one story – indigenous voices in children's literature**  
Charlotta Langejan, Linnéa Ellen Knutsen, Peter Dowling, Marit Alette Utsi  
Moderator: Nayr Correia Ibrahim. Event hosted by Nord University
- 
- 13:30-13:55 **Right now! Trends in Norwegian children's literature**  
Alexander Løken, chair of NBU  
Event hosted by NBU - Norwegian Writers for Children
- 
- 14:00-14:25 **KABOOM! The art of writing action in Nordic fantasy**  
Authors Håkon Marcus and Arne Lindmo
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- 14:30-15:15 **Accessing books and shared reading experiences in early childhood in Norway**  
Perspectives from research and practice  
Norway's Minister of Culture and Equality Lubna Jaffery, Professor Trude Hoel and Associate Professors Katarzyna Tunkiel  
Event hosted by Norwegian Reading Centre
- 
- 15:30-15:55 **How to become a children's non-fiction author - and love it every day**  
Author Bjørn Arild Ermland and Ragnhild Holmås  
Event hosted by NFFO - The Norwegian Non-Fiction Writers and Translators Association

## Tuesday 14th April

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- 10:00-10:40 **New Voices from Norway - helping aspiring authors conquer new markets**  
The New Voices programme by NORLA supports aspiring authors in how to present their books to an international audience  
Authors Cathrine Sandmæl, Julia Kahrs, Pernille Radeid, Gøril Sæther, Fabian Christensen, Arne Lindmo, Veronica Salinas. Moderator: Oliver Møystad
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- 10:45-11:25 **Paper or screen - what happens to reading in a digital world?**  
Author Maja Lunde, author Siri Sjøgren Selmer and Professor Scott Rettberg  
Moderator: tbc
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- 11:30-11:55 **Teens turning pages. Challenges, strategies and success stories**  
Eira Kluge, Rachel Boden, Valentina Stoeva. Moderator: Elaina Ryan  
Event hosted by Foundation READ
- 
- 12:00-12:25 **Book Play - a playful introduction to literature**  
Author and illustrator Hilde Hodnefjeld and Mia Granum  
Event hosted by The Norwegian Festival of Literature
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- 12:30-12:55 **Assessment and feedback that fuels reading motivation. Using the Read-to-me checklist to provide motivating feedback while reading engaging texts**  
Author Bjørn Arild Ermland, Associate Professor Bente Walgermo  
Moderator: Professor Per Henning Uppstad  
Event hosted by Norwegian Reading Centre
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- 13:00-13:25 **Author meets translator**  
Author Kristine Rui Slettebakken and translator Alice Tonzig
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- 13:30-13:55 **Book start - why early reading matters. Lessons from across Europe**  
Caroline Hill, Daan Beeke. Moderator: Vibeke Røgler  
Event hosted by Foundation READ
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- 14:00-14:45 **Silence and music - creating a visual universe in Nobel laureate Jon Fosses picture books**  
Illustrators Øyvind Torseter, Akin Düzakin, Lucio Schiavon.  
Moderator: illustrator Stian Hole
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- 15:00-15:25 **Meeting with Norway's fantasy queen, author Siri Pettersen**
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- 16:00-16:30 **Migration, narration and void in Nordic children's literature**  
Author and illustrator Hilde Kramer, Veronica Salinas, Kjersti Lersbryggen Mørk  
Event hosted by NBI - The Norwegian Institute for Children's Books





# Norway Café

Hall 30/A12-B9

## Wednesday 14th April

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- 10:00-10:25 **Bold voices for young readers.** The power of daring books  
Author Marta Breen and Eivor Vindenes  
Event hosted by Foundation READ
- 
- 10:30-10:55 **Reading and libraries - how can the book sector work together**  
Nicole Pfister Fetz, Willemien Cazzato-Wagner, Anne Bergman, Andrew Cranfield.  
Moderator: Helene Voldner  
Event hosted by Norwegian Library Association
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- 11:00-11:25 **Sámi literature - a unique contribution to the world**  
Elisabeth Sheehy, Margit Walsø, Harald Gaski. Moderator: Marit Alette Utsi  
Event hosted by Sámlitt
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- 11:30-12:25 **A journey to Norway.** A special issue of Andersen magazine  
Martina Russo, Eva Valvo, Karen Frøsland Nystøyl  
Event hosted by Andersen
- 
- 12:30-12:55 **Scaffolded sustained silent reading.** From local to national resource  
Camilla Michelle Brand, Eira Kluge  
Event hosted by The Norwegian Festival of Literature
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- 13:00-13:25 **Queer emotions and love - are they really that different?**  
Authors and illustrators Cha Sandmæl, Cathrine Sandmæl  
Moderator: Ragnhild Malfang  
Event hosted by IBBY Norway
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- 13:30-13:55 **Indigenous literacy - the Sámi languages revitalization through translated books**  
Sølvi Riise, Morten Olsen Haugen  
Event hosted by Nordland and Trøndelag county libraries
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- 14:00-14:25 **Turning on northern and southern lights in kid lit translation. What if...?**  
Jan Næss, Are Tijhkkom, Eva Valvo. Moderator: Francesca Sophie Giona  
Event hosted by CEATL - European Council of Literary Translators' Associations
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- 14:30-14:55 **Youth Literature Award - young readers and contemporary literature**  
Eira Kluge, Therese Garshol  
Event hosted by The Norwegian Festival of Literature
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- 15:30-15:55 **What If ... there were no education for writers?**  
Sanne Mathiassen, Ole Ivar Burås Storø, Irene Marienborg, Håkon Marcus  
Moderator: Steffen Sørum  
Event hosted by NBI - The Norwegian Institute for Children's Books

## Thursday 15th April

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- 10:00-10:25 **Nordic Manga - blending global styles and creating something new**  
Tormod Løkling, Malin Falch, Cha Sandmæl, Cathrine Sandmæl  
Event hosted by TNT
- 
- 10:30-10:55 **Books for indigenous children in their native language: Why is it important?**  
Government support of indigenous literature in Norway  
Beate Heide  
Event hosted by Mun Dajan, Sámi authors' association





# What if illustration exhibition

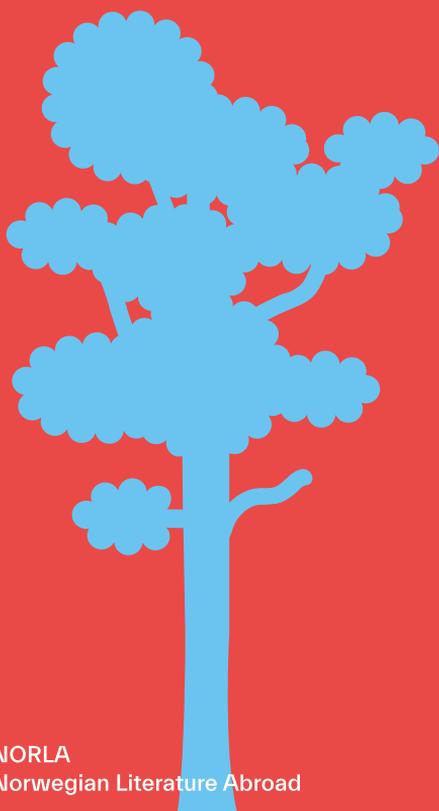


Showcasing works  
by 49 children's book  
illustrators from Norway

Illustrator's Café  
BolognaFiere Service Center

Daily exhibition tours guided by illustrators

Monday 13th April	14:00-14:30	Øyvind Torseter
Tuesday 14th April	12:00-12:30	Nora Dåsnes
Wednesday 15th April	14:00-14:30	Øyvind Torseter
Thursday 16th April	14:00-14:30	Øyvind Torseter



## More showcases

- **Sala Scuderie at Biblioteca Salaborsa**  
Highlights of the What if illustration exhibition
- **MAMbo - Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna**  
Illustrators: Stian Hole, Kristin Roskifte, Kari Stai
- **BolognaBookPlus - Talking Pictures**  
Grafill presents the winners of the *Most Beautiful Books* and *Most Beautiful Illustrated Books*



# Fair stages

## Monday 13th April

10:30	Illustrators' Café	Official opening of the Bologna Children's Book Fair with Guest of Honour Norway 2026
12:00	Illustrators' Café & Norway Café (Hall 30/A12-B9)	Official opening of What if - the Norwegian Guest of Honour Exhibition and Norway Café
13:20	BolognaBookPlus Theatre	Guest of Honour Forum. What's in it for us?
14:10	BolognaBookPlus Theatre	Graphic novels for adults
14:00-14:30	Illustrators' Café	Guided tour of the Norwegian Guest of Honour Exhibition with Øyvind Torseter

## Tuesday 14th April

09:30-10:20	Illustrators' Café	<b>The visual world - masterclass with Øyvind Torseter and Stian Hole.</b> Content in writing and illustration Moderator: Eva Valvo
09:40-10:20	Content Café	<b>Norwegian comics - the fun and the furious</b> Nora Dåsnes, Kjersti Synneva Moen, Håkon Strand, Tonje Tornes Moderator: Hans Ivar Stordal
10:00-10:50	Translators' Café	<b>From a small country to the big world - how and why literature travels</b> Author and illustrator Kristin Roskifte, author Jostein Gaarder, translator and university lecturer Andrea Romanzi. Moderator: Margit Walsø
10:30-11:20	Illustrators' Café	<b>How to inspire children to read - transforming research into action.</b> Insights on how to inspire and strengthen reading engagement from early childhood through the school years Professor Trude Hoel, Associate Professors Katarzyna Tunkiel and Bente Rigmor Walgermo, editor Lisa Nagel, Siri Risdal from Rogaland County Library Moderator: Professor Per Henning Uppstad Hosted by NORLA and the Norwegian Reading Centre
11:30-12:20	Illustrators' Café	<b>The First to Fall: Children's books as the canaries of free expression</b> Trine Skei Grande, Anna Fiske, Alexander Løken, Andrea Romanzi. Moderator: Ragnfrid Trohaug
12:00-12:30	Illustrators' Café	Guided tour of the Norwegian Guest of Honour Exhibition with Nora Dåsnes
15:30-16:20	Content Café	<b>Creating the world's best readers</b> We are witnessing a decline in reading motivation and literacy among children and young people. To address this, Norway has launched a national reading strategy and a major reading initiative and appointed a reading commission with the ambition of making children in Norway among the world's strongest readers. What will determine success? Marit Borkenhagen (Norwegian Festival of Literature), Trine Skei Grande (Norwegian Publishers' Association), author Maja Lunde, Bente Estil (member of Parliament / chair of the Standing Committee on Family and Cultural Affairs). Moderator: Siri Risdal Hosted by NORLA and The Norwegian Festival of Literature





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15:30-16:30	Translators' Café	<b>Translation Slam</b> Panel discussion with translators Eva Valvo and Andrea Romanzi, who have made two separate versions of Nobel laureate Jon Fosse's book <i>My oh my</i> . Translators Laura Cangemi and Giovanna Paterniti discuss the different versions with the panel and the audience.
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### Wednesday 14th April

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11:00-11:50	Translators' Café	<b>AI - The death of the translator?</b> Francesca Novajra, Kaja Bakkejord, Della Pasarelli Moderator: Jan Chr. Næss. Hosted by NORLA and The Norwegian Association of Literary Translators
13:30-15:00	Translators' Café	<b>Table T</b> Giovanna Paterniti, Laura Cangemi, Roberta Scarabelli, Loredana Serratore, Alba Mantovani discuss challenges and joy in translation from Norwegian and other Nordic languages into Italian.
14:00-14:25	Illustrators' Café	Guided tour of the Norwegian Guest of Honour Exhibition with Øyvind Torseter
15:00-15:45	Illustrators' Survival Corner	<b>Making sense of the world through picture books.</b> A visual conversation Authors and illustrators Kristin Roskifte and Stian Hole

### Thursday 15th April

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10:00-11:00	Translators' Café	<b>In altre parole - in other words.</b> Young and anonymous translators have contributed to the competition of the best translation of Bjørn F. Rørvik and Per Dybvig's <i>Spottiytis</i> . The winner will be announced and published on BCBF's web page.
14:00-14:30	Illustrators' Café	Guided tour of the Norwegian Guest of Honour Exhibition with Øyvind Torseter





# City of Bologna

## Sunday 12th April

09:30	Biblioteca Salaborsa	<b>The wind from the North - New perspectives on childhood</b> Author and illustrator Øyvind Torseter, author Maria Parr, Professor Nina Goga
11:00-11:50	Biblioteca Salaborsa	Nordic Conference hosted by BOOM! Author Maria Parr
16:00-18:00	MAMbo	<b>Creating a world through illustrations</b> Author and illustrator Kristin Roskifte draws cityscape on a wall in MAMbo and invites the people of Bologna to add their own imaginative creatures and elements, completing the artwork together
18:00-19:00	MAMbo	Official opening of the MAMbo What if illustration exhibition with Norwegian artists Stian Hole, Kari Stai and Kristin Roskifte

## Monday 13th April

10:00-10:45	Corticella Library	Author <b>Marianne Kaurin</b> presents her book <i>Il nostro piccolo paradiso</i> to the young readers of Bologna Moderator: Maria Teresa Cattaneo
10:00-10:45	Lame-Cesare Malservisi Library	Author <b>Arne Svingen</b> presents his book <i>Vita da cani</i> to the young readers of Bologna Moderator: Lucia Barni
14:00-14:45	Scandellara Library - Mirella Bartolotti	Author <b>Erlend Loe</b> presents his book <i>Chi ha sederato il formaggio del re?</i> to the young readers of Bologna Moderator: Giovanna Paterniti
17:00-17:45	Kilowatt	Author and illustrator <b>Kristin Roskifte</b> reads and draws from her book <i>Tutti quanti contano</i> - and she will explain why exactly YOU should be there! Moderator: Lucia Barni
17:00-19:00	Cineteca Bologna	Translator Maria Valeria D'Avino reads from Bjørn F. Rørvik and Gry Moursund's book <i>I tre capretti furbetti al parco acquatico</i> - and the children will learn how to draw their own TROLL!
17:30-19:00	Biblioteca Salaborsa	Author <b>Maria Parr</b> and illustrator <b>Åshild Irgens</b> read and draw from their book <i>Oscar e io e quella volta che...</i> Moderator: Alice Tonzig

## Tuesday 14th April

10:00-10:45	Corticella Library	Author <b>Gulraiz Sharif</b> presents his book <i>Ascoltami!</i> to the young readers of Bologna Moderator: Lucia Barni
10:00-10:45	Jorge Luis Borges Library	Author <b>Erlend Loe</b> presents his book <i>Chi ha sederato il formaggio del re?</i> to the young readers of Bologna Moderator: Giovanna Paterniti
10:00-10:45	Luigi Spina Library	Author <b>Reidar Müller</b> and illustrator <b>Sigbjørn Lilleeng</b> present their book <i>Che avventura l'evoluzione! La straordinaria storia della vita sulla terra...a fumetti!</i> to the young readers of Bologna. Moderator: Maria Teresa Cattaneo





10:00-10:45	Natalia Ginzburg Library	Translator Maria Valeria D'Avino reads from Bjørn F. Rørvik and Gry Moursund's book <i>I tre capretti furbetti al parco acquatico</i> - and the children will learn how to draw their own TROLL!
10:00-11:00	Salaborsa	Author <b>Maria Parr</b> and illustrator <b>Áshild Irgens</b> read and draw from <i>Oscar e io e quella volta che...</i> Moderator: Alice Tonzig
10:00-11:00	Tassinari Clo' Library	<b>Håkon Marcus</b> presents his book <i>Bestie selvagge</i> to the young readers of Bologna. Moderator: Francesca Giona
10:00-12:00	MAMbo	<b>Meet author and illustrator Kari Stai!</b> The Jakob and Neikob universe in Stai's picture books is the basis for a workshop where we play with cutout shapes and create figures in space. Will small changes create big effects? Moderators: Marta Zanin, Giulia Zucchini
17:00-18:30	Biblioteca Salaborsa	Author <b>Bjørn F. Rørvik</b> reads from his and Gry Moursund's book <i>I tre capretti furbetti al parco acquatico</i> - and the children will learn how to draw their own TROLL! Moderator: Maria Valeria D'Avino. Hosted by The Norwegian Festival of Literature

### Wednesday 14th April

10.00-12.00	MAMbo	<b>Creating a world through illustrations</b> Author and illustrator <b>Kristin Roskifte</b> draws cityscape on a wall in MAMbo and invites the people of Bologna to add their own imaginative creatures and elements, completing the artwork together. Inspired by her own book <i>Tutti quanti cantano</i> . Moderators: Marta Zanin, Giulia Zucchini
10:00-10:45	Casa di Khaoula Library	Author <b>Reidar Müller</b> and illustrator <b>Sigbjørn Lilleeng</b> present their book <i>Che avventura l'evoluzione! La straordinaria storia della vita sulla terra...a fumetti!</i> to the young readers of Bologna Moderator: Giovanna Paterniti
10:00-10:45	Corticella Library	<b>Håkon Marcus</b> presents his book <i>Bestie selvagge</i> to the young readers of Bologna Moderator: Francesca Giona
10:00-10:45	Luigi Spina Library	Author <b>Arne Svingen</b> presents his book <i>Vita da Cani</i> to the young readers of Bologna Moderator: Lucia Barni
10:00-10:45	Pezzoli Library	Author <b>Kjersti Synneva Moen</b> reads from her book <i>Provaci ancora, Selma!</i> to the young readers of Bologna Moderator: Maria Teresa Cattaneo
17:00-17:50	Booklovers Café	<b>The Fabulous Wardrobe.</b> Countless twists: fairy tale, fashion, art, and yarn. Kristin Roskifte, Steven Guarnaccia, Pia Valentinis
17:00-18:30	Scandellara Library - Mirella Bartolotti	Author <b>Bjørn F. Rørvik</b> reads from his and Gry Moursund's book <i>I tre capretti furbetti al parco acquatico</i> - and the children will learn how to draw their own TROLL! Moderator: Maria Valeria D'Avino Hosted by The Norwegian Festival of Literature





## Thursday 15th April

09:30-11:30	MAMbo	<b>Dialogue between heart and brain - welcome to a joyful collage workshop!</b> Everyone creates their own picture, and at the end, we'll piece the creations together to build a bigger story. Author and illustrator <b>Stian Hole</b> shares fun tips, tricks, and secrets from the world of picture book making! Moderators: Marta Zanin, Giulia Zucchini
10:00-10:45	Borgo Panigale Library	Author <b>Kjersti Synneva Moen</b> reads from her book <i>Provaci ancora, Selma!</i> to the young readers of Bologna Moderator: Maria Teresa Cattaneo
10:00-10:45	Casa di Khaoula Library	Author <b>Gulraiz Sharif</b> presents his book <i>Ascoltami!</i> to the young readers of Bologna Moderator: Lucia Barni
10:00-10:45	Natalia Ginzburg Library	Author <b>Maja Lunde</b> reads from her book <i>La Sorella di Neve</i> to the young readers of Bologna. Moderator: Francesca Giona
11:30-13:30	MAMbo	<b>Dialogue between heart and brain - welcome to a joyful collage workshop!</b> Everyone creates their own picture, and at the end, we'll piece the creations together to build a bigger story. Author and illustrator <b>Stian Hole</b> will share fun tips, tricks, and secrets from the world of picture book making! Moderators: Marta Zanin, Giulia Zucchini
17:00-18:30	Lame-Cesare Malservisi Library	Author <b>Bjørn F. Rørvik</b> reads from his and Gry Moursund's book <i>I tre capretti furbetti al parco acquatico</i> - and the children will learn how to draw their own TROLL! Moderator: Maria Valeria D'Avino Hosted by The Norwegian Festival of Literature

## Sunday 19th of April

16:00	Cineteca di Bologna	Film: <i>I tre capretti furbetti al parco acquatico</i>
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