



ARIANNA SQUILLONI AND RAQUEL CATALINA WIN THE 18th INTERNATIONAL COMPOSTELA PRIZE WITH "GRANDE Y PEQUEÑA"

The Italian author Arianna Squilloni and the Madrilenian illustrator Raquel Catalina are the winners of the 18th International Compostela Prize for Picture Books with their work entitled "Grande y pequeña". The contest, organised by the Departamento de Educación of the Concello de Santiago and KALANDRAKA, is endowed with € 9,000 euros and the winning project will be published next November in Spanish, Galician, Catalan, Basque and Portuguese.

Based in Barcelona, Arianna Squilloni has run the publishing house A Buen Paso since it was founded in 2008. After studying Theory of Thought and Classical Philology, for more than two decades she has focused her professional career on publishing. She is the author of several picture books, novels and essays. She combines her literary facet with collaboration in magazines specialising in literature, workshops and projects in schools, as well as participating in national and international conferences and teaching on university courses and master's degrees.

Raquel Catalina studied Fine Arts in Madrid and took a postgraduate degree in Illustration in Valencia, where she currently lives. Her works have been published by publishing houses in different countries. She has received the Bologna Children's Book Fair Award 2023 and has been selected for the Baba Kamo exhibition, the Ibero-American Illustration Catalogue and the Ilustrate exhibition.

The 18th International Compostela Prize has received 288 entries from 16 countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Mexico, the United States, Germany, France, Poland and Turkey. The jury was made up of the Portuguese illustrator Mariana Rio, the reading promoter Raquel López Royo, the plastic artist Pep Carrió, the illustrator Xosé Cobas, the publishing editor of KALANDRAKA, Manuela Rodríguez, the councillor for Education of Santiago, Míriam Louzao, and Beatriz Varela as secretary.

The jury highlights that "Grande y pequeña" corresponds 'perfectly' to the concept of picture book, 'where text and illustration complement each other harmoniously'. It is a story 'with a subtle poetic undertone and multiple readings', from the passage of time and memory to nature and art. 'In its narrative composition, the silences stand out, which increase the reader's capacity to reflect on the vital journey of the main character, an old woman returning from the city to the countryside', added the jury. From a plastic point of view, 'a restrained use of the chromatic palette, in contrast with the treatment of black and white' is appreciated; a work that is finished up, on a technical level, through 'the diversity of perspectives and the sequence of images'.



FINALIST

The Chilean author María Paz García Finch has received the jury's special mention for a project submitted with the slogan "La espera".

The International Compostela Prize has now come of age and has surpassed the mark of 5,000 projects received since the first edition in 2008. The prestige of the competition attracts authors from all over the world due to the quality of the editions and their projection in the framework of KALANDRAKA's multilingual catalogue, which reaches the main international book fairs -Bologna, Frankfurt, Guadalajara (Mexico), Beijing...- and contributes to the promotion of Santiago de Compostela as a cultural and creative reference.



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