

International Illustrated
Picture Book Contest

apila's

FIRST PRINTING AWARD

2027



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Call for Apila's First Printing Award 2027

OBJECTIVE

To promote the production of children's picture books by illustrators who have not yet published any.

RULES

The publishing house Apila Ediciones, in collaboration with the School of Design of Aragón and with the support of the Zaragoza City Council, announces the Apila's First Impression Award 2027, the fourteenth edition of an International Illustrated Children's Book competition aimed at strengthening graphic and literary creation by supporting illustrators who have not yet published any books.

1. All illustrators who wish to participate, of any nationality, over 18 years old, may enter this award without any limitation on the number of projects. A **necessary condition for participation is not having any published children's book with an ISBN until June 30, 2026.** However, those who have one or more self-published books with an ISBN may participate, provided that these books were not published through a publishing house or editorial services company. In cases where the project is a collaboration (text by one person and illustrations by another), the condition of not having any published books applies exclusively to the illustrator. Additionally, the rights to the submitted works must be free of commitments to third parties.

2. The works submitted, written in Spanish or English, may be original or adaptations of stories free of copyright.

Prohibition on the Use of Artificial Intelligence for Illustrations

The use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (such as Midjourney, DALL-E, Stable Diffusion, or similar) is strictly prohibited for the creation, editing, or completion of the illustrations submitted for this project/contest.

All entries must be original and unpublished works, created entirely through the effort, technique, and talent of a human author. The detection of AI usage at any stage of the creative process will be grounds for immediate disqualification.

3. The award will consist of the signing of a professional contract with Apila Ediciones for the publication of the selected work, which will include the payment to the author(s) of €4,000, equivalent to 10% of the value of the first print run of the book, as well as the dissemination and international distribution of the book. In the event that the rights of the project are shared between writer and illustrator, the percentage of 10% will be divided between them according to the prior agreement reached by both. The winning author or authors shall, in said contract, transfer the rights of the book to Apila for publication and for the international management of those rights for a period of twelve years.

4. The award will be granted to one project only.

5. The projects may have any format, but may not exceed 40 pages (20 double pages), including legal pages (credits page and title page) and flyleaves. The cover: front cover, spine and back cover are not included in the 40 pages of the book.

6. To avoid mail delivery, contestants must submit one file per project in PDF format (maximum 15 MB) by filling out the registration form at:

<https://www.apilaediciones.com/premio-apila-primera-impresion/>

The PDF file may be of the finished book or, failing that, of the book's layout with a minimum of five finished double-page spreads and the rest in sketch form.

7. The publisher Apila Ediciones will appoint a panel of judges, which will be made up of a member of Apila Ediciones, a lecturer in Artistic Drawing and Colour at the Aragon School of Design and two prominent personalities in the field of education, design and/or communication. The panel may resolve any question that arises and is not clarified in these rules. It will also not take into consideration those works that do not comply with these rules, and may leave the award void. The deadline for receiving projects is February 14, 2027 (inclusive, at 11:59 PM, peninsular Spain time).

8. The decision and the award will be made in March 2027. The award will be published on the website www.apilaediciones.com, on www.facebook.com/apila.ediciones and on the Instagram profile @apila_ediciones. The winner of the award undertakes to deliver the files for the edition before 1 September 2026. Apila Ediciones will publish the winning project within the year of the call for entries. The publication will state in a visible place in the edition the fact that it has been awarded the "Premio Apila Primera Impresión".

9. Apila Ediciones reserves the right to exhibit a selection of the projects submitted to the competition as part of the exhibition programme of the Aragon School of Design.

10. Acceptance of the Rules and the Prize. Participation in this competition implies full knowledge and consequent acceptance of all the rules governing it, as well as acceptance of the prize, should the proposal be selected as the winner, under the conditions stipulated in Rule 3.

Deadline:
14/02/2027

