

# The Book Illustration Competition 2018 Announces Longlist

**London, 1 February 2018: Today, The Folio Society and House of Illustration are thrilled to announce the longlist for the annual Book Illustration Competition (#BIC2018).**

Now in its eighth year, The Book Illustration Competition is a partnership between The Folio Society and House of Illustration. To date, the competition has distributed over £50,000 worth of prizes and has received thousands of entries.

This year from over 450 excellent entries, 24 have been selected for the longlist.

The winner will receive a prestigious £5,000 commission from The Folio Society to illustrate their new edition of Arthur Conan Doyle's **The Selected Adventures and Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes**. The five other entrants who complete the shortlist will each receive £500. As part of the Book Illustration Competition's commitment to nurturing new talent, the judging panel ensures that students form part of the shortlist.

The difficult task of selecting the longlist fell to Sheri Gee, Art Director at The Folio Society, and Colin McKenzie, Director of House of Illustration.

Sheri Gee said 'The longlist represents for me the entries that excelled in both cover and illustration, making a cohesive entry. It's no simple skill to adapt styles and concepts for both – an illustration which pinpoints an exact moment and a cover which represents the whole in a compelling way.'

Colin McKenzie noted 'We had a wonderful response to the competition this year with almost twice the number of entries, clearly reflecting the enduring and international popularity of Sherlock Holmes. We were particularly pleased by the large number of student applications and the creativity and ingenuity of so many of the illustrations. As a result we have a very strong longlist.'

Entries were received from 48 countries including the USA, Singapore, Iran, Spain and Guatemala, and over 35% of them were from students.

This year also sees the return of the popular stand alone People's Choice award. Voted for online ([www.competitions.houseofillustration.org.uk/book-illustration-competition-2018/peoples-choice-award](http://www.competitions.houseofillustration.org.uk/book-illustration-competition-2018/peoples-choice-award)), the People's Choice can be selected from any of the longlisted entries. The winning artist and one member of the public who voted for them will receive £100 worth of books from The Folio Society and a one-year membership to House of Illustration.

The shortlist and the winner will be selected from the longlist by eminent Holmesian, Helen Dorey; Sheri Gee, Art Director and Tom Walker, Publishing Director both from The Folio Society; Colin McKenzie, Director and Olivia Ahmad, Curator both from House of Illustration and Darya Shnykina, winner of the Book Illustration Competition 2017.

The awards will be announced and presented by Helen Dorey at an exclusive ceremony at House of illustration on 20 February 2018.

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# Notes to editors

## The 2018 Book Illustration Competition Longlist (in alphabetical order)

Ellen Barkin; Svetlana Boiko; Simon Bridgland; Alison Bryant; Rachel Burlington; Hilary Clarq; Zuzana Čupová; Erik Freij; Marie-Alice Harel; Richard Holland; Julia Horst; Nataša Ilinčić; Shazleen Khan; Max Löffler; Xinran Ma; Anna Millais; Jess Miriam; Agata Pankowska; Andrew Pinder; Andy Potts; Christopher Shaw; Jelle Steenhuisen; Tobias Willa; Harry Woodgate

Assets, biographies and photographs for each of the longlist are available on request.

**The Book Illustration Competition** is a partnership between The Folio Society and House of Illustration. The annual international competition is open to illustrators over the age of 18, both students and professionals, not previously published by The Folio Society. To date, the competition has distributed over £50,000 worth of prizes and has received thousands of entries. The winner will receive the prestigious Folio Society commission worth £5,000 to illustrate the competition title. Five runners-up will each receive £500.

For 70 years, **The Folio Society** has been publishing beautiful illustrated editions of the world's greatest books. It believes that the literary content of a book should be matched by its physical form. With specially commissioned illustrations, many of its editions are further enhanced with introductions written by leading figures in their fields: novelists, journalists, academics, scientists and artists. Exceptional in content and craftsmanship, and maintaining the very highest standards of fine book production, Folio Society editions last for generations. [www.foliosociety.com](http://www.foliosociety.com) @foliosociety

**House of Illustration** is the UK's only public gallery dedicated solely to illustration and graphic arts. Founded by Sir Quentin Blake it opened in July 2014 in King's Cross, London. Its exhibition programme explores both historic and contemporary illustration and the work of defining and emerging illustrators, amplified by a vibrant programme of talks and events. A registered charity, House of Illustration supports emerging talent, commissions new work and has a pioneering learning programme for children, young people, adults and families delivered by professional illustrators. [houseofillustration.org.uk](http://houseofillustration.org.uk)  
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