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Winners of the CLAIRVOYANTS 2016 competition

In May 2016 the Dwie Siostry Publishing announced the second edition of CLAIRVOYANTS – an international competition for an illustrated children’s book project. We received 380 projects from 34 countries.

The jury sitting took place in the Podchorążówka (Officer Cadet School) building situated in the Royal Łazienki Garden in Warsaw between 25th and 27th of January 2017. The entries were evaluated by two independent juries.



The judges of the international jury – Monika Hanulak, Juraj Horváth, Åshild Kanstad Johnsen and Grzegorz Kasdepke – awarded the 2500 EUR main prize and three honorary mentions:

Main prize:

'Robook' by Dalia Żmuda-Trzebiatowska, Poland

Honorary mentions:

- **'Cięża' ('Pregnancy')** by Małgorzata Wojtkowiak, Poland
- **'Pupa and Beetle'** by Ayane Mitsuoka, Japan
- **'Signs of Silence'** by Rasa Jančiauskaitė, Lithuania

The international jury's verdict

After a brief and rather harmonious discussion, the jury reached its verdict and decided to award one project with the main prize and to distinguish three other with honorary mentions. The outcome of the jury sitting is an unanimous one, however each of us has their own favourites. That is why we have divided between ourselves the justification of our choices: each of the judges had written their argumentation on the submission that they particularly liked or whose virtues they found easiest to express. Therefore, although our justifications are very personal, they reflect the team work hidden behind each choice.

Monika Hanulak
Juraj Horváth
Åshild Kanstad Johnsen
Grzegorz Kasdepke

Main prize: 'Robook' by Dalia Żmuda-Trzebiatowska

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'Robook' is an example of a well thought-through and consistent concept, that follows a well-known idea, quite often explored by artists in the past (just to name the 'Where is Wally?' series). One could think that it's impossible to create anything original within this genre, however 'Robook' proves the opposite. The author has designed an imaginary Warsaw-of-the-future, filled with hilariously drawn robots. "Robook" has the potential to absorb the readers for hours, due to the abundance of details on each spread, their fine finishing and its enormous playability. The author (with excellent skills) proposes nonintrusive humour, ingenious activities and, despite the undoubted preponderance of images over words, a great deal of linguistic jokes too.

Monika Hanulak

'Robook' is an entertaining book. Its various tiny elements form parts of an imaginary city. It is populated both by humans and robots whose needs, tasks and wishes are like ours. One storyline links each double-spreads with one another. The proposed assignments are not uniquely simple instructions, but contribute to the humorous aspect of the book. 'Robook' is a grotesque enriched with game elements, luckily, it is deprived of a didactic or sentimental tone.

Juraj Horváth

Honorary mention: 'Cięża' ('Pregnancy') by Małgorzata Wojtkowiak

This is a tiny, lovely and simply drawn story, beginning with a straight-forward question: 'Mum, how come once I was in your belly?'. Intriguingly, the question is asked by a middle-aged chap in a red jumper...

The book gives a fantastic account of an everyday life of a pregnant woman, which sometimes can be amusing, and other times becomes mysterious.

The informal narrative found in a very direct and personal manner in which the Mum answers her Child's questions is the strongest point of the book. There are illustrations that are breath-takingly simple and raw, without any excess. It's amazing to see how the typography can dominate the illustrations. However, the book's weaker point is the cover, which is a bit overdone, but that can be easily fixed.

Juraj Horváth

Honorary mention: 'Pupa and Beetle' by Ayane Mitsuoki

Strange and funny, but also very understandable, even though I don't understand it. But I understand it.

Funny characters, punch in colours, the dialogue is superb and characters built, one is talking a lot, the other talks very little, but in a firm way. Even though the dialogue is strange I feel I've had these conversations with people before talking at someone/with someone/past someone.

And clearly Pupa is holding back some information? Or is he/she a pupa? Will he/she be a butterfly, or is he/she something else?

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Is the Beetle curious about Pupa, or frustrated because he/she doesn't behave how he/she should.

I really feel the imaginary fits the text. It hit me. And I would have loved it as a child, and I would have loved to read it to a child.

It's perfect for me, but I realise it's not for everyone, but I guess that's a part of the attraction.

And it makes me wonder: what is the deal with Pupa?

My interpretation: He was a pupa going to be a butterfly, but decided to just stay a pupa and he/she can't really explain why, and he/she is tired of having to explain himself/herself for others.

Yup.

Just great!

Love it.

Sweet & short!

Åshild Kanstad Johnsen

Honorary mention: 'Signs of Silence' by Rasa Jančiauskaitė

Grown-up Poles have grown to love non-fiction stories; it's the highest time to make our children fall in love with them too!

'Signs of Silence' book cleverly combines fascinating illustrations by a Lithuanian artist Rasa Jančiauskaitė with narratives of the hearing-impaired people. They belong to the Lithuanian Deaf Youth Organization and the book gives an account of their experience. What's important, the author managed to convey their stories in a way that remains interesting not only for those with impaired hearing, but for all of us who happened to glance with curiosity on the hearing-impaired passers-by...

Combining short, literary impressions with ambiguous illustrations has left room for imagination and reflection. Thus, the book provides a perfect pretext to start a profound discussion with a child or with oneself.

Big congratulations to the author! She has touched upon a very important subject without drowning it in banality or pathos! 'Signs of Silence' should be available for the public as soon as possible.

Grzegorz Kasdepke



The Dwie Siostry Publishing jury – Ewa Stiasny, Jadwiga Jędryas, Joanna Rzycka and Maciej Byliniak – awarded the main prize and two honorary mentions. The winning project will be published by Dwie Siostry.

Main prize: 'Signs of Silence' by Rasa Jančiauskaitė, Lithuania

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Honorary mentions:

- **'Pupa and Beetle'** by Ayane Mitsuoka , Japan
- **'Zwyczajna mowa w regionalnych słowach'** ('Ordinary words in regional languages') by Aleksandra Zaborska, Poland

The verdict of the Dwie Siostry Publishing jury

The 2016 edition of the Clairvoyant competition for an illustrated children book has had a much more international character: there were 380 submissions admitted, arriving from 34 countries. Our verdict reflects this geographic diversity: we've decided to award one main prize, which is the book publication, and to distinguish two entries with honorary mentions; each of these works comes from a different country.

The first mention goes to the work entitled **'Pupa and Beetle' by a Japanese artist Ayane Mitsuoki**. This one of a kind joke book balances on a thin line that separate primitivism from minimalism and eccentricity from genius. However, the author does it with charm, brilliance and a sense of humor that is irresistible. The entire work consists barely of 10 spreads, depicting just three simple elements: two characters and a tree. Still, it's enough to let something extraordinary happen, thanks to a superbly crafted dialogue: surprising, ambiguous and, above all, irresistibly funny.

The second mention goes to the work **'Zwyczajna mowa w regionalnych słowach' ('Ordinary words in regional languages') by Aleksandra Zaborska** from Poland. She proposes an educational game in a form of cards that in an attractive and clever way shows the diversity of regional variations of the Polish language. A user is invited to display the cards in a correct order – to build a story from the sentences written on them and to match the pairs of images. A traditional, dialect word of one of the five regions of Poland stands out as a central element of each card. The idea of the game is to trace and learn the regionalisms and their surprising connotations. The strength of this works is not only a well thought-out and clever concept, but also a fine and striking artwork.

The main prize goes to the work **'Signs of Silence' by Rasa Jančiauskaitė** from Lithuania. This submission has held our attention due to its very good grasp of a socially important subject. The book leads a reader into the world of the hearing impaired by combining a semi-documentary texts with a scarce but expressive graphic design. The accounts of persons facing hearing impairment are compact, clear and diverse. These micro-stories are accompanied by illustrations drawn with powerful strokes which gain an even stronger expressive power thanks to the conscious use of a limited color palette and the effect of their shifting.

'Signs of Silence' gives the voice to those whom we do not hear. The book allows us to cross an invisible border, separating the world of those who hear from the world of those who don't, and impresses us positively, encouraging to cross this line again in the future. We are certain that this promising project will turn into an uncommon book.

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We congratulate the winner as well as the authors of works distinguished with the mentions and thank all the participants of the competition.

Ewa Stiasny

Jadwiga Jędryas

Joanna Rzyńska

Maciej Byliniak



Apart from the winning projects the Dwie Siostry Publishing jury selected 40 most interesting entries, that will be presented at the **post-competition exhibition** in May 2017:

'Dwie Siostry' by Joanna Bartosik

'Arbuzja' by Monika Bąkowska, il. Agnieszka Grzegorzczak

'Zameczek Leśny' by Marta Bilińska

'Roll Up Roll Up' by Ella Charles

'Konstytucja Niepospolita' by Dagmara Cieślca

'Łapa w łapę' by Mateusz Ciompała

'Atlas Dużej Wody' by Katarzyna Dobrowolska

'Lekcja muzyki. Ilustrowany przewodnik po gatunkach XX wieku' by Piotr Dobry, il. Łukasz Majewski

'The Anteater Who Talked to Himself' by Petronela Dostalova

'Bukwalnik' by Katarzyna Drewek

'Plac zabaw' by Justyna Dybala

'Pudełko' by Aleksandra Fabia-Tugal

'Przeprowadzka' by Joanna Gębal

'Gimnastyka Pana Bzika' by Agnieszka Głód and Wacław Marat

'Rekiny' by Alicja Grobelka

'Zielone wymysły' by Aleksandra Grzegorek

'O czym śni leniwiec?' by Basia Grzybowska

'Plastic Travel' by Rasa Jančiauskaitė

'Gdzie dzisiaj śpimy?' by Marta Kopyt

'Latający ludzie' by Marta Kopyt

'Where is the Blue Rooster?' Taoyu Li

'Za linię' by Alicja Markiewicz, il. Marta Olczak

'Jak złapać noc?' by Iwona Olbrecht-Koziek

'You Shouldn't Do That' by Shawn Pak, il. Jiyeon Pak

'Droga' by Kamila Pawlicka

'Lekcja wf-u' by Adrianna Szwedkowicz

'3 bajki 5 gier' by Zuzanna Sitarska

'Dzika ferajna' by Aleksandra Sklorz

'Opowieści z Piaskowego Boru' Jaga Słowińska

'Troll i Gwiazda' by Szymon Trawiński, il. Marta Obuchowicz

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'Cztery kąty' by Weronika Wolska

'Fortuna' by Tinka Volarič

'Zwykły piesek' by Aleksandra Zając

'Bob – bardzo osobisty bohater' by Małgorzata Zając

'We Sleep, We Dream' by Lucia Žatkuliaková

'Czy to długo czy krótko?' by Izabela Zięba, il. Janina Myronowa

'Wielkie nieba' by Anna Sowińska and Mateusz Moczulski

'O Tynkolu' by Daniel Tuma, il. Eva Šimberová

'Zwierzaki pysiaki' by Olimpia Drwięga

'Spotkanie' by GRUPA SZEROKO: Katarzyna Augustyniak, Szymon Kaczmarek, Kaja Migdałek-Kaczmarek



We would like to thank all and each of these who contributed to the success of the second edition of the competition for an illustrated children's book project CLAIRVOYANTS.

We thank all the participants – the authors of the submitted works.

We thank our partners: the Arctic Paper company, the Europapier company, the Pigeon studio, which prepared the footage of the competition, as well as the Royal Łazienki Museum in Warsaw, which made their premises available for the jury sittings and the Czech Center and the NORLA foundation, who helped us host the foreign judges of the international jury in Warsaw.

We thank our honorary partners: the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the mayor of the capital city of Warsaw, the Polish Section of IBBY, the Association of the Applied Art's Creators, Festival of Children's Literature, Museum of Children's Books in Warsaw, Polish Society of Book Publishers and the ZORROZ Foundation.

We thank our media partners: the LubimyCzytać.pl portal, the 'KSIĄŻKI Magazyn do czytania' magazine, the 'Magazyn Literacki KSIĄŻKI' magazine, the 'Nowe Książki' magazine, the Qlturka.pl portal, the quarterly on children and young adults books „Ryms”, TVP Kultura, the Wydawca.pl portal and the Xiegarnia.pl portal.



WWW of the competition: http://www.wydawnictwodwiesiostry.pl/clairvoyants_2016/

Video interviews with the jury members on the competition and on the winning projects together with pictures: http://www.wydawnictwodwiesiostry.pl/clairvoyants_2016/gallery_198/

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Samples of the winning projects:

[http://www.wydawnictwodwiesiostry.pl/dwiesiostry_files/File/WYNIKI konkursu JASNOWI DZE 2016 - press pack.rar](http://www.wydawnictwodwiesiostry.pl/dwiesiostry_files/File/WYNIKI_konkursu_JASNOWI_DZE_2016_-_press_pack.rar)



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