



Nami Concours:

International Picture Book Illustration Concours

- Nami Island International Picture Book Illustration Concours, also known as Nami Concours, was initiated by Nami Island in 2013 with the aim of offering opportunities for illustrators to showcase their creative talents and raise the quality and standard of picture book illustrations. In its first year Nami Concours attracted entries from 42 countries, 71 countries in its second year, and 1,777 entries from 89 countries in its third year. Nami Concours is internationally known as one of the largest picture book illustration concours.
- The Nami Concours International jury committee from 6 different continents selects winning works by evaluating the quality, soul, consistency of a conceptual narrative, potential for multiple interpretations and multi-layered ways of telling story, originality and innovation of illustrations.

Nami Island, the sponsor of Nami Concours

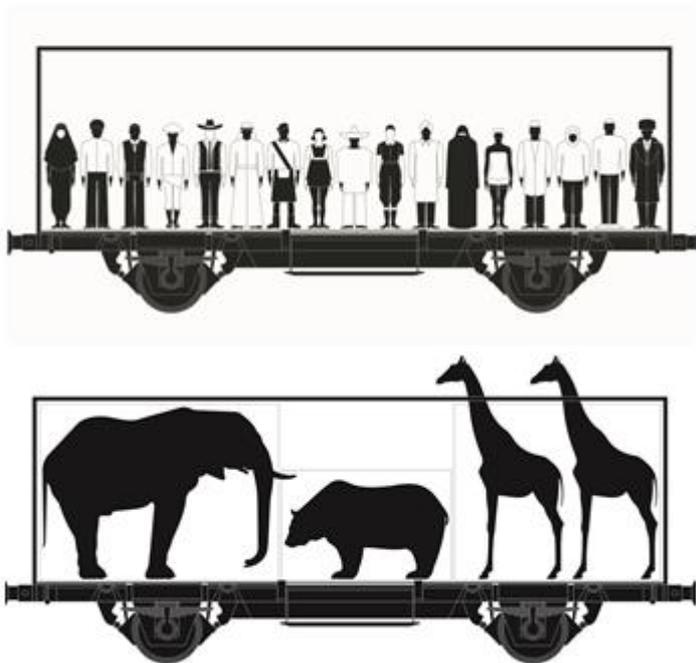
- Nami Island, as the sponsor of Nami Concours, has been working with international organizations including UNICEF, UNESCO and IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People) and artists in supporting cultural and artistic sectors through various activities ranging from fine arts to

a wide spectrum of cultural festivals.

Meanwhile, as an official sponsor of the Hans Christian Andersen Awards which is also known as the “Nobel Prize for children’s literature” given every other year by IBBY, Nami Island has been contributing to the development of children’s literature by holding Nami Concours (Nami Island International Picture Book Illustration Concours) and NAMBOOK (Nami Island International Children’s Book Festival).

TOP3 Winning Works & Interviews

• Grand Prix



The Locomotive / IDEOLO

2017 Nami Concours Grand Prix Winner

Malgorzata Gurowska

ISBN 978-0992908270

The Grand Prix winning work *The Locomotive* is inspired by a famous polish poem written by Julian Tuwim. Malgorzata challenges contemporary questions about nationalism, racism, anti-Semitism, attitudes towards ecology and animals, and interprets them graphically.

Medium: Paper, Print

• Interview with Grand Prix Winner

Q. Your works tell children not only lovely stories but also controversial social issues. However, in Korea there are quite a few parents who believe children’s books should not be dark, difficult or frightening. Do such stereotypes towards children’s books exist in Poland too?

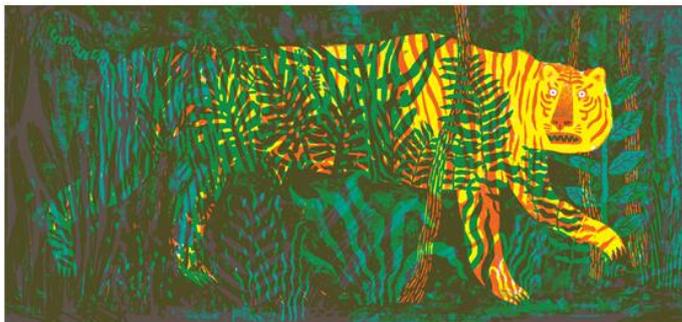
A. I believe that children should not only see the world in pink. I also believe that what adults see and what children see in the world is not that different. We have the same stereotypical idea regarding children's books in Poland, but there are still small groups of people who like this kind of books.

Q. How do you balance your values as an artist and your values as a reader?

A. In my opinion, the role of book is to build a dialogue not a monologue, which is why I'm trying to design a book without texts. I may be the one to pose questions, but the answers lie in the reader. I like this open dialogue where I can also learn from the reader.

- *Malgorzata Gurowska*

• Golden Island



Beastly Verse

2017 Nami Concours Golden Island Winner

JooHee Yoon

ISBN 978-1592701667

A picture book of 16 animal poems handpicked by the artist for humor and visual potential, in which four images in particular leave deep impressions to the public.

Influenced by the paintings of Lewis Carroll and William Blake, the entire book is printed using only three spot colors, bringing readers to a charming and poetic world.



Medium: Drawing and Handmade Textures

Scanned and Composed in Photoshop

. Interview with **Golden Island Winner**

Q. Your works are usually expressed with only 2 or 3 spot colors. Do you think placing restraints or a certain pattern to your methods of expression helps expand your creative world and artistic personality?

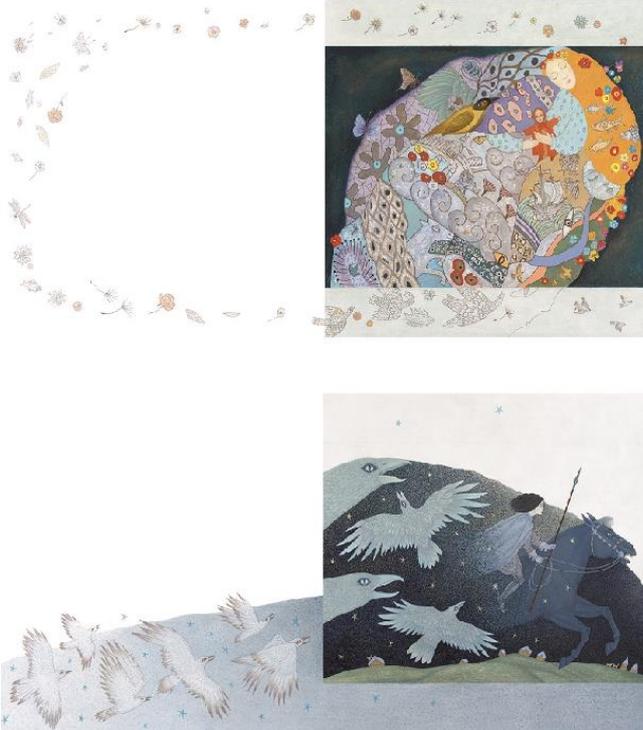
A. I think the limitation in color helps me think efficiently on how and where to use the colors within my works. It becomes more like solving a visual puzzle where all the pieces have to come together to create a whole. If you only see a single layer such as the red or the yellow, you won't be able to find any coherence and you will have no idea what's going on. But when they all come together, it creates a comprehensive image.

Q. You have rich experience in editorial illustrations and posters. Working on editorial illustrations for media must be different from working on illustrations for picture books. How so?

A. When working on illustrations for media, I focus more on the needs of clients since there is a set article that I can't deviate from. Illustrations for books are based on self-generated ideas and stories I pick for a certain project. Naturally, posters (illustrations for media) are different from illustrations for my book. But I love doing them both, since they require contrasting ways of thinking and solving problems.

JooHee Yoon

• Golden Island



Vasilisa the Beautiful

2017 Nami Concours Golden Island Winner

Anna Morgunova

ISBN 978-9888240500

Vasilisa the Beautiful is reinterpreted from a famous Russian folklore. The whole book is illustrated in a beautiful and delicate manner, and the perfect combination of darker colors with lighter colors creates a fanciful and dreamy atmosphere.

Medium: Acrylic, Watercolor

• Interview with Golden Island Winner

Q. You mentioned that your illustrations are reinterpretations of, or inspired by, old Russian folktales. Can you give some advice to other illustrators who wish to reinterpret traditional folktales into their own illustrations?

A. I think the most difficult part of reinterpreting folktales is to find what materials can or cannot be transferred into the modern world. I usually like to add interesting details or characters into my work. Readers may see my illustrations and wonder if it is from the old or from the modern. But rather than dividing the two, I like to focus on expressing myself—my dreams, thoughts, and values. I think this is where modern take on folktales starts.

Q. You mentioned that you are often inspired by nature. It's surprising how we all see the same sky and the same tree, but some are inspired and some are not. Where do you think lies the difference?

A. It's true. We all see the same world but have such diverse reactions, thoughts and

expressions. I think this is the beauty of being your own self. Don't you think it's wonderful? To be who you are? If we were not different, the world would be very boring.

- Anna Morgunova

- Interviews are extracted from the 'International Illustrator's Seminar: The World of Our Imagination' seminar held in May, 2017 at the National Library for Children and Young Adults.

Nami Concours 2019

1. Application Period

1 July 2018 ~ 31 August 2018 (Korean Standard Time)

2. Conditions

- a. Illustrations for picture book
- b. A set of illustrations should comprise one story
- c. Preliminary judging: 5 illustrations per entry / Final judging: 5 ~ 10 illustrations per entry
- d. Data size: No bigger than 20MB in total (RGB format/jpg, jpeg file)
- e. Entry fee: Free of charge

3. Entry Method

- a. Upload digital images to Nami Concours official website after the completion of online application form
- b. Official website: www.namiconcours.com

4. Judging

- a. Preliminary judging: International jury composed of renowned professionals will shortlist successful candidates up to 10X more than the actual number of winners
- b. Final judging: International jury will gather to decide final winners

5. Submission for the Final Round of Judging

- a. Eligibility: Shortlisted candidates who are selected in the preliminary judging
- b. Deadline: 30 November 2018 (Korean Standard time)
- c. Contents of entry: Either originals or quality prints of the illustrations submitted for the preliminary judging (No entries will be returned)

6. Awards

Grand Prix 1 (Plaque and USD 10,000)

Golden Island 2 (Plaque and USD 5,000)

Green Island 5 (Plaque and USD 2,000)

Purple Island 10 (Certificate and plaque)

※ Illustrations of the shortlisted candidates will be exhibited during the 2019 Nami Island International Children's Book Festival and included in the catalogue

7. Results

The winners will be announced on the Nami Concours official website in January 2019

Notes More details can be found on the Nami Concours official website

Nami Concours Events



2017 Nami Concours Winning Works Exhibition



2017 Nami Concours Original Production Performance: The Mermaid and the Giants in Love



2018 Nami Concours Promotion Session at
Bologna Children's Book Fair



2017 International Illustrator's Seminar:
The World of Our Imagination



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