



TALKING PICTURES FOR BOLOGNABOOKPLUS 2024

Talking Pictures, a collaboration between Hamelin and Steven Guarnaccia, was established in 2018 to explore the cultural importance and ongoing impact of the contemporary international visual book. Today the visual book is a very rich medium, in which various sectors of book publishing (for children and, in particular at this cultural moment, for adults) interconnect and cross-pollinate, giving life to new forms of visual language and new literary and publishing entities and opportunities, encompassing the full range of creative endeavor.

Beginning this year, Talking Pictures reinforces its collaboration with BolognaBookPlus, and with the Bologna Children's Book Fair, by proposing to explore the visual book production of one country, with the mission of presenting the most interesting and experimental books at the boundaries between forms and genres. This research is presented to the public through an exhibition of juried books and a prize awarded to the best visual book of the year.

For BolognaBookPlus 2024, Talking Pictures is highlighting Ukraine, with its long history of exceptional printing, illustration and graphic design, resulting in visual books of the highest quality. The books that have been chosen are selected from among those published since 2021- years lived under the dramatically difficult circumstances of war. It is even more remarkable, therefore,

that such a high level of quality and excellence has been maintained, while book production has simultaneously increased. The book, once again, proves its efficacy as a form of resistance, a fact which is reinforced by this present selection. These books demonstrate a double declaration of militant responsibility: one explicit, which doesn't ignore the wounds of a country still at war, and one more indirect, that explores memories of landscapes, architecture, traditional celebration, artists of the past. And yet it's the high level of attention paid in these books, attention paid to materials, to design, to the quality of paper, that makes them a kind of proud declaration, concrete in their materiality but just as significantly, on a symbolic level.

The jury this year is made up of Steven Guarnaccia, Hamelin and Neil Packer.

Talking Pictures Selected Books has been organized in partnership with The International Book Arsenal Festival, institution that highlights Ukrainian book visual culture throughout its activities locally and internationally, who brought together the collection of the visual books.

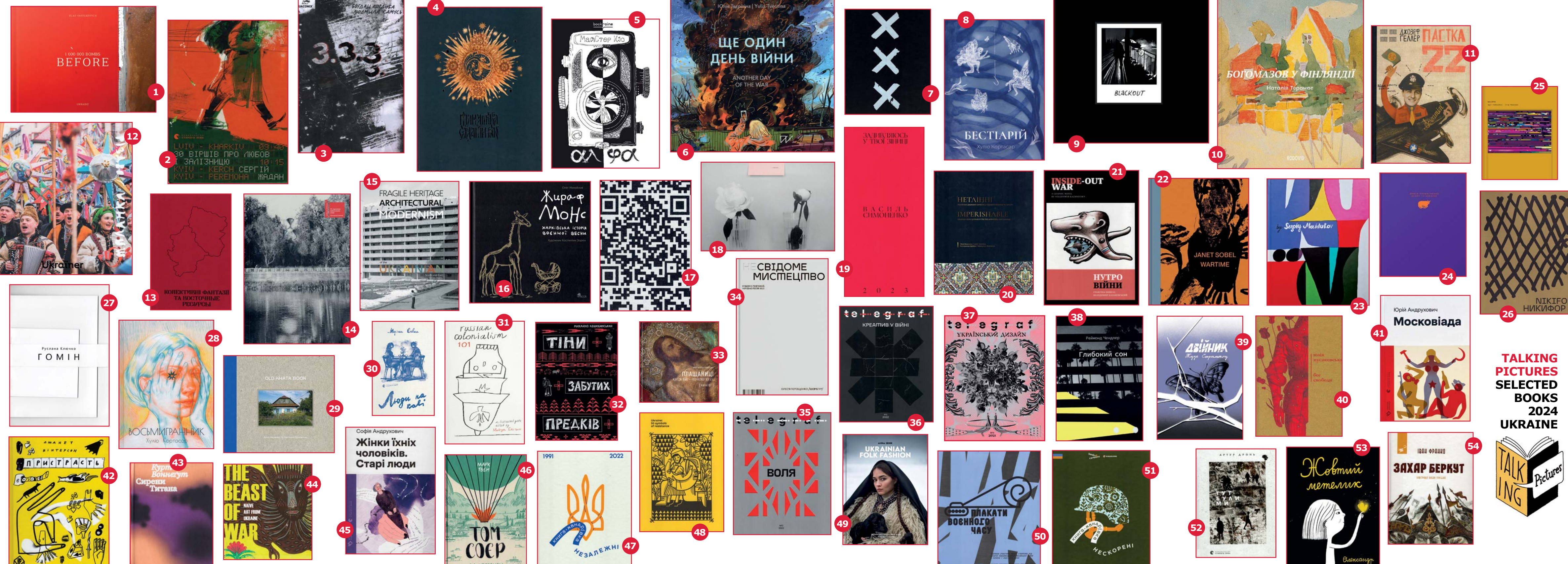
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