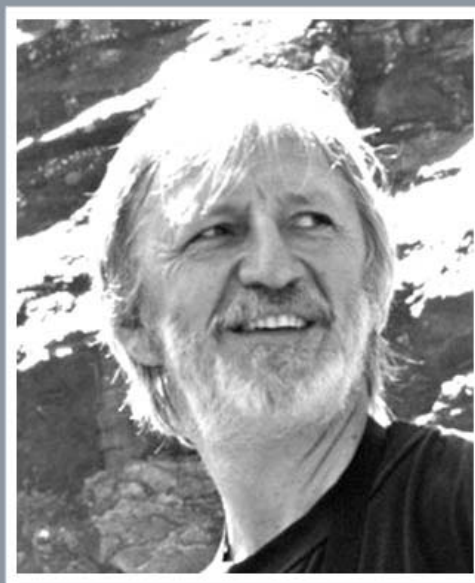


IGOR OLEINIKOV
HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN AWARD
2014
ILLUSTRATOR NOMINATION
RUSSIA



Biographical information

Igor Oleinikov was born on January 4, 1953 in Lyubertsy (Moscow Region). After finishing the Moscow Institute of Chemical Engineering in 1976 he worked in the design institute "Giprokauchuk". In 1979 came to the "Soyuzmultfilm" studio as an assistant art director, after a while he became an artistic director. "I spent three years by the drawing board. And by the drawing board I drew". Apparently, the genes were harassing. My mother was a carpet designer. And now a half-Kremlin paved with her tracks..."- the artist explained his change of profession in an interview for "Book Review".

Although Oleinikov has no art education, it's difficult to believe it. Talking about his teachers he says: "Firstly my mother taught me and then Natasha Orlova, Volodya Zuikov, Eduard Nazarov and Cyril Chelushkin from "Soyuzmultfilm". I haven't ever studied in some specialized college. Previously I was proud of it, now I regret."

As an animator Igor Oleinikov is well-known for his films "The Mystery of the Third Planet" (1981), "The Last Hunt" (1982), "The Tale of Tsar Saltan" (1984), took part in making "Caliph-Stork" (1981). As the art director he created such films as "My Sherlock Holmes" (1987), "A Tale of a stupid husband" (1986), "Encroachments" (1987), "Shoemaker and the mermaid" (1989), "In Search of Oluen" (1990) etc.

He worked in the Russian studio of BBC, well-known as "Christmas Films", where he helped making the cartoon-fantasy based on Mozart's opera "The Magic Flute" (directed by Valery Ugarov), which was praised on Tarusa's animation festival in 1996. The following year Tarusa again awarded the artist with a prize for the best character to the film "Jonah."

In 2000, in the animation festival "Golden Fish" the "Arise and take up" (from the series "Tales of the peoples of the world", directed by Yuri Kulakov), loosely based on the Sufi parable about the two little birds, won the Grand Prix. In 2000-04. - The artist worked on the feature film "The Nutcracker" (to / from the "Argus", together with the German production company, director T.Ilina).

Since 2004 Oleinikov works in the studio "Sunshine home", participated in making the film "Prince Vladimir". Since 1986 he assists children periodical magazines as well ("Misha", "Tram", "Pile-small", "Sesame street", "Fireball", "Good night, kids!" Almanac "Gingerbread Man Two and a giraffe"), at the same time he works with some book publishers.

Among his works issued by the Russian publishing houses there're "Alice in Wonderland" by L. Carroll, "The Hobbit, or There and Back Again" by J.R.R. Tolkien, "The Adventures of Baron Munchausen" by E. Raspe, "The Different fish" and "The Different cat " by B. Zahoder, "The Orange Camel", "Fairy tale of navigation" and "Fairy tale of Aeronautics" by A. Usachev", "The tale of Despereaux " K. DiCamillo. Since 2001 he begins collaborations with publishers in Canada, USA, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Korea, Taiwan and Japan. He took parts in book exhibitions in Russia, Lithuania, Estonia, Germany, Taiwan, and also in the Bratislava Biennial «BIB» each time since 2001 up to now. Respectively, Olejnikov was a finalist for the exhibition "Bologna 2004". In 2006 Olejnikov received a diploma at the Tallinn Baltic Triennial of illustration for his pictures based on Stevenson's "Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" (Italy, «Fabri editori», 2007, provided by the artist). Recently Igor Oleinikov worked on such books as "Peter Pan" by J. Barry (special order, Russia), "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" by RL Stevenson (for Italian «Fabri editori»), a book about Arthur and Gwen (USA, «Dutton children's books», 2008) and several books for the Taiwanese publishers «Gremm press». He plans publishing books for Japan and the USA.

However, there is something to wait for Russian fans as well. Igor Oleinikov recently completed a design for the book of K. I. Chukovsky's poems to publish it in "Machaon." And "Ivan the Fool" and "The Firebird" have already published in "Azbuka" ("The book as a gift" series).



The statement on the candidate's contribution to the literature for young people.

The great tradition of graphic art and children's book illustration started in Russia in the middle of the XIX century, and then continued its existence in spite of all the disasters, revolutions, wars and political changes. To work as children's book illustrator always meant to be independent of totalitarian ideology, to be sincere, to be free even during the most difficult periods of history.

Igor Oleinikov started his professional illustrator's career in the 80-es, when Russia became a more open country after decades of the "iron curtain". By that time he was already a grown-up person with years of studies and work in other fields. Oleinikov didn't get a formal professional art education, but nevertheless has become a well-known, highly appreciated and relevant illustrator in spite of a great competition between artists graduating from different art schools. He is a real self-made artist and he was able to take in, to absorb what was necessary for his art from everything around – from nature, everyday life, other artist's works. And, thus, Igor managed to obtain a more precious education than if he had been an ordinary good student at an art school. He was educated to become chemist, but his passion for art brought him to an animation studio. Instead of making chemical experiments he started drawing. And step by step has become a real artist.



The work in animation made a special influence on Oleinikov's art. There is always a lot of motion in his pictures. His characters are vivid, dynamic, full of life. His technique – dry brush gouache, allows him to work quickly, to realize his conception very fast. He is one of the most prolific contemporary Russian illustrators and he says proudly that he has never let down any publisher being always in time to finish his work.

Being efficient and quick in Oleinikov's case doesn't mean being in a hurry and careless. The artist works with such intensity and devotion that illustrating fills all his life. As a result he becomes one of the most

appreciated and loved illustrators in Russia. Oleinikov with equal talent can illustrate lullabies, tales, verse and masterpieces of classical literature. Every new book is welcomed with enthusiasm by grown-ups and children, his illustrations have qualities that can be appreciated both by kids and their parents. The characters are full of individual features - sometimes poetical, sometimes funny and attractive, sometimes frightening or amusing, and due to Oleinikov's artistic skills all of his illustrations are real pieces of graphic art.

Igor Oleinikov is a very sincere artist and follows the best Russian traditions of illustrating children's books. He puts his heart and soul in his work, and nowadays it is not less difficult than in all the previous periods of history. Though the borders are not closed and it is possible for an artist to see the world and it seems that there are no restrictions to express himself, other problems appear – the mass market, standard requirements of the publishers, banality of images. Oleinikov's talent helps him to avoid all these reefs. Each of his books is a whole world with it's own atmosphere and mood, with it's inner life full of humor and subtle irony. His art is unique, it appeals to the hearts of children and brings them in contact with fantasy and beauty. He involves his young readers into a creative play, inspires their imagination and makes them cosy and safe in the world of adults.



Interviews, articles.

The second life of a story

Igor Oleinikov's works aren't just illustrations made for fiction. They are an individual collectors' works named with a short but capacious word "art".

"It is very strange to find nowadays such a small bridge appearing from nowhere which very fast connects grownups' present and children's past. As for me that bridge is Igor Oleinikov's art that I occasionally saw once. The first thought of mine was that in his drawings there was something very well-known and only since some time past I realized the illustrations of this artist appeared in children's magazine "Tramvay". That time we took out different subscriptions for magazines and newspapers. And every morning I ran to my mailbox and I was so happy to receive a fresh glossy magazine with a printing-ink scent. Although the magazine appeared every month it often came late that's why I always reread the previous ones".

That opinion-remembering I have found in the internet while I was looking for the information about our hero. I was pleased to know that and now I can surely tell our readers that the artist and illustrator Igor Oleinikov is successful, actual and even is appraised to be an innovator among gallery dealers. The gallery G8 together with Oleinikov opens a new direction in this business, the so called "art-illustration".

Igor, what a fairy-tale is?

Everything that amazes can become a fairy-tale in our life.

What were your favorite fairy-tales when you were a kid?

When I was a kid I read a huge amount of different fairy-tales. The anthologies of fairy-tales from all over the world. I had no favorite – all of them were my favorite ones. They were flowing with an eternal current. My mother literally piled me with books. That were the 1960-s.

Illustrations of what artist did you enjoyed more?

I enjoyed Vladimírsky without any doubt! I made of plasticine all of his heroes. Father made a glass-case for me and I had the whole gallery of historical characters.



The dinosaurs on the sofas

...this year the “Akvarel” Publishing House produced the famous “Working ABC” with Igor Oleinikov’s illustrations – and to my mind it was a real upheaval.

Maybe it’s something from sphere of magic influence.

Thanks to artist’s works the book without any doubt got the new quality. Something that looked like wipe on the text level turned out to be a slight irony inside of a picture, it was like a joke protecting grownups who read for their children about the woman-agriculturist hundred times and now is bored. Igor Oleinikov’s illustrations are mysterious and ironic simultaneously. And they are absolutely unexpected. It’s impossible to predict how the quatrain can look like through the artist’s imagination.

What visual imaginary can be chosen for a poem on the letter “G”:

*Of a crowded carriage friend,
enemy of breezies,
tenant of a platform, he
is a MAN OF RAILWAY.*

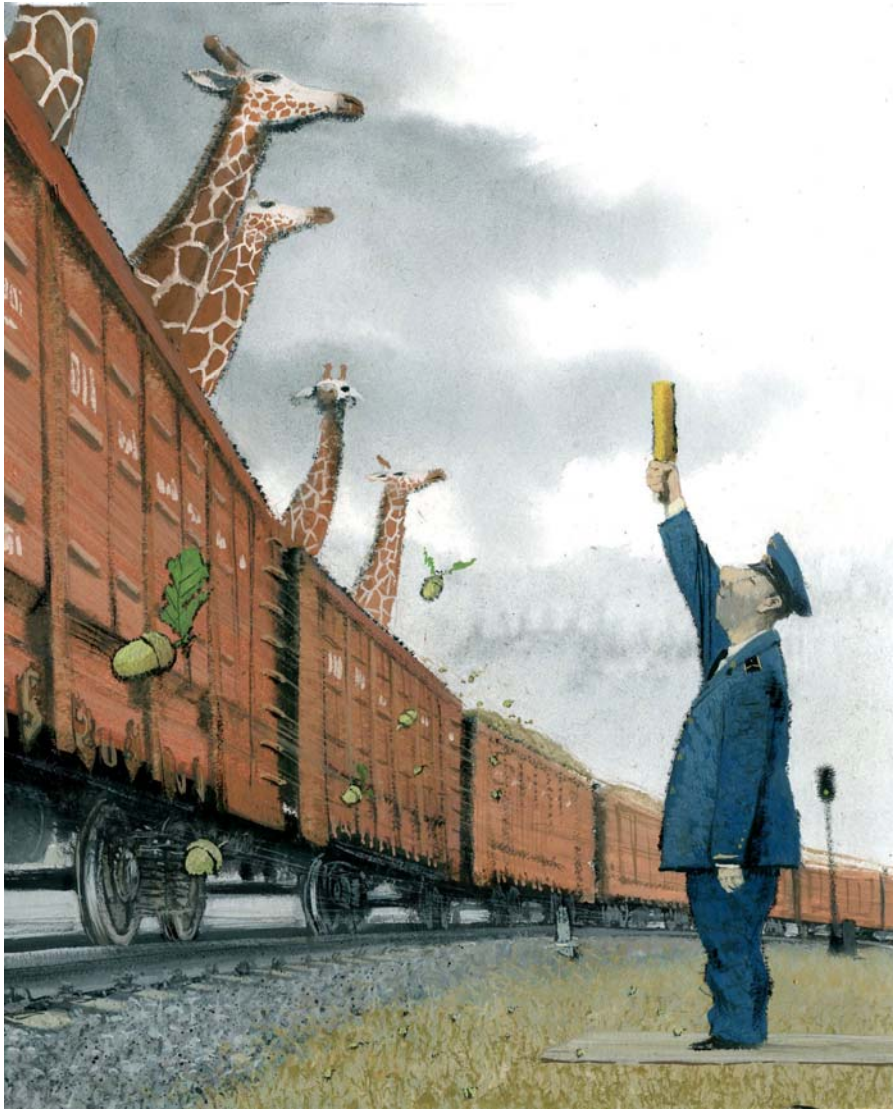
To draw the railway station with a platform? A train? A railway man? There's no railway station. But there is an “infinity” and the railway man with a signal rod, he doesn't give the train a command to move but with emotion he salutes the “passengers”.

Who are the passengers? The GIRAFFES. With big necks, with indicative dark brown spots, with their heads exalted to the sky.

And from the sky the ACORNS¹ fall. There are no oaks around – just the acorns fall from somewhere like the raindrops or peaces of snow.

It's the real poem...

¹ All the poem is written with a phoneme “G” and all the visual objects of Oleinikov are called by words beginning with a “G” letter. The same thing happens with other poems from that book. – *Translator*.



And this is a quatrain based on “D”, it’s about caretaker:

*All the gateways, all the corners,
grinning with importance
with a broom all this caretaker
will clear out to shining.*

The caretaker is very tiny on the picture, he looks like a small ladybird. And the houses (HOUSES) are so huge that we see only their ground floors. All the other world is outside the picture. And there is winter, everything is covered with snow and hazy. In the deepness of the scenery a great big diplodocus comes out.



It's not just "the prose of existence in pictures", not just the ordinary houses – it's a real phantasmagoria. Compilation of realities. And the ladybug which is the caretaker himself inspires respect to him: he doesn't care about the diplodocus walking through the city (he cares only about his sweeping) and he finds a way to "grin with importance". Obviously the caretaker is an enrooted man, he's above all these absurd accidents.

But initially the text had nothing like that. The whole sense grows from the "unity" of pictures and words. It's exactly that situation when the picture gives new volume to the text.

I think that initially the “methodical” idea of the “working ABC” looks something like that: every educating activity addressed to a child must be full with pedagogical sense. If we have to teach him what the letters are let’s use this situation: put in remembrance the great importance of the labor which is given to us in diversity of professions. If somebody have forgotten, the Soviet Union was a proletarian government. And “who doesn’t work, doesn’t eat”.



I imagine vividly the editor that gives an ideological to a poet – to glorify the labor one more time. And the poet like Brodsky shrugs his shoulders:

Letters’ greed is awful, children!

Many countries I have seen,

but I haven’t found profession

that begins with letter E.

No professions with SH letter.

You'll get sweaty searching them.

I regret to say I haven't

found ones that begin with I.



These jokes look very much like dissidents' ones. But they are addressed not to the children. And actually they were addressed not to the children before Oleinikov's works. And Oleinikov have made a carnival situations of that poems, the animals are wearing different clothes. That side of poems children are able to understand.

As the main thing in "Working ABC" is glorifying labor its primary challenge to get children acquainted with letters is a bit weakened. The

connection of the text and the letter is very conventional. And some of the letters as we saw (No professions with SH letter) are deprived of the object's backbone (the character drawn by the artist in a maneen's mask doesn't count; you have to guess that you see a maneen's mask). So the "Working ABC" as the text itself doesn't fit much to get children acquainted with the letters.

And the artist associates himself with the poet. But he manages to fill the book with attached sense. There's not a word about that in the text – as there's not a word about the giraffes and acorns in one of the previous texts. But they live inside of illustrations.

And "Working ABC" turns out to be a book that gives food for children's reflections.

I'd like to say that this book have set me on fire – with the artist's ability to modify and open the text.

Marina Aromshtam



Igor Oleinikov is one of the most prolific Russian illustrators. He has illustrated more than 50 books. The first one was published in 1984. He participates in many exhibitions. In 2010-2011 has got a diploma on the state competition “Book Art”. In 2011 Russian periodical “Book review” has honored him as “The Book Man”. In 2012 Oleinikov was put on the IBBY Honor List.

In 2004 Igor Oleinikov made two illustrations to Andersen's “Thumberlina” in paper and oil technique. The pictures look very mysterious. Unfortunately, they were never published in the book.



In 2005 the publishing-house Grimm-Press ordered Oleinikov illustration's to another tale by Andersen “The Nightingale”. Oleinikov used the same technique in that work. The book is very beautiful. There are no empty spaces – for every page the artist supplies at least a tiny picture. Images are set on a misty enigmatic background that correspond to the mysterious unreal narrative. This picturesque instability is created by the

tiny strokes, dots and points of various shades of one and the same color. And in this mysterious atmosphere sing two nightingales – a glamor fop and a modest gray bird with white breast.



This modest singer will appear on a Chinese fan and on a Japanese cherry-tree in blossom, leading the main tune. In the misty waves one can trace a Chinese garden, people in oriental dresses, bridges and pagodas, and many silver bells, mentioned in the tale. Everything is very exquisite and stylized.

L.Kudryavtseva



Igor Oleinikov's way to the children's book illustration has started on famous Soyuzmultfilm animation studios, where instead of making science experiments he made the art ones. The enormous enthusiasm and great passion for art of a might-have-been chemist and self-made artist granted him support of the fellow animators, with whom he collaborated on such well-known Soviet cartoons as *The Mystery of the Third Planet* and others. The years spent in animation have left their trace on his illustrations, bringing the dynamic pace, dramatic viewpoints and particular plasticity.

In 1986 Oleinikov has started his illustrator's career: first, in children's periodicals - *Misha*, *Tramway*, *Sesame Street*, *Kucha Mala*, then - in children's books publishing houses. Since his first steps in illustration there was a particular trait of all the books he illustrated: charismatic, funny, unforgettable personages.

Igor Oleinikov has always been the one eager to study something new: from cartoon scene setting to innovative illustration techniques. After years of experiments with diverse illustration media, he arrived to paint with gouache using the dry brush method. Such technique combined with his high working speed permits the artist to create numerous vivid, dynamic images in short periods of time and to be one of the most productive contemporary Russian illustrators.

Oleinikov's talent to bring animation motion into book illustration has been highly appreciated even abroad. In 2007 the US publishing house Simon & Schuster Books has commissioned him the illustrations for *Mahalia Mouse Goes to College*. The story of a mouse graduating from Harvard became another one in a row of successful Oleinikov's international projects, among

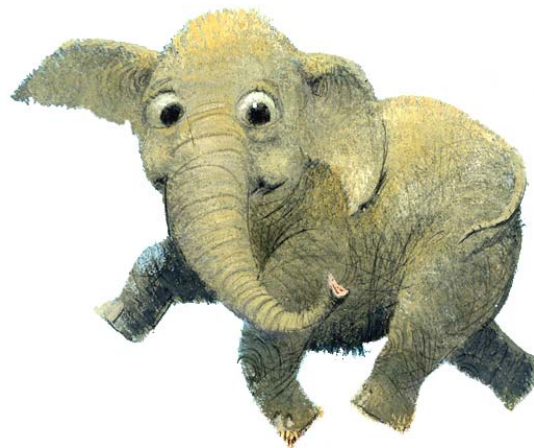
which were also books for the Grimm Press, NorthSud Verlag, Italian, Japanese and Korean publishing houses.



All along Igor Oleinikov also kept interest for the Russian authors, one of his masterpieces are the illustration series for Nobel laureate Josef Brodsky's children poem *A Ballad About a Small Tugboat* and avant-garde poet Daniil Kharms's *All Run, Fly, and Jump*. These are the exceptional examples of the artist's distinctive style, his tense sense of rhythm, motion and composition. The city of St.Petersburg in *A Ballad About a Small Tugboat* is full of details, stories, landmarks - but this gigantic seaport has nearly nothing to do with Brodsky's Leningrad: Oleinikov creates his own world based mostly on his ideas, fantasies and memories than on strict real life observations. The tugboat's crew are not portraits of some real people, but the faces are so typical, so recognizable that every reader would 'remember' to have already met them all once in a lifetime.

.Last ten years were a period of Oleinikov's talent flourishing and producing of lots of highly approved book illustration series. Not only children's ones - his latest drawings for A.Tolstoy's *Aelita* has made an explosion-effect on Russian book art lovers. Knowing Oleinikov's passion for constant studying and his unwillingness to stop ameliorating, this peak is surely not the highest-one yet.

Ekaterina Eskina, art historian



List of main awards and other distinctions.

2005 – Certificate of appreciation from Switzerland Embassy for participation in the exhibition “ Everything is comparable in the world”

2006 – Second Prize at TIT (Triennale of Illustrations in Tallinn)

2008 - Golden Medal Moonbeam Children's Book for the illustrations to *Tiny Bear's Bible*, by Sally Lloyd-Jones 2008 r.(Gold (2): *Tiny Bear's Bible*, by Sally Lloyd-Jones; illustrated by Igor Oleynikov (Zonderkidz) <http://moonbeamawards.wordpress.com/2008-winners/>

2010 - Diploma for the book “Barefooted Princess” by Sophia Prokofieva, “ Art of the Book” nomination, Non Fiction Exhibition, Moscow.

2011 – “Man of the Book” Award, Non Fiction Exhibition, Moscow

2011 – Diploma for the book “All are running, flying and jumping” by Daniel Harms, “ Art of the Book” nomination, Non Fiction Exhibition, Moscow.

2012 – IBBY Honour List Diploma for the book “The ballad of a little tugboat” by Jozeph Brodsky





List of the books sent to Jurors.

1. Joel Chandler Harris. Uncle Remus stories. Br'er Fox and Br'er Rabbit. Russia, Akvarel', 2012.
2. Joseph Brodsky. Working ABC. Russia, Azbooka, 2013.
3. Joseph Brodsky. The ballad of a little tugboat. Russia, Azbooka, 2011.
4. H.C.Andersen. Nightingale. Taiwan, Grimm Press, 2006.
5. Jules Supervielle. The Ox and the Donkey near the manger. Russia, Nikeya, 2013.



List of the books sent to Jurors (on CD)

1. A. Usachev. Lullaby Book. Ripol Classic , Russia, 2009.
2. Grimm brothers. Bremen Town Musicians. Grimm Press, Taiwan, 2009.
3. Kate Dargau .Who's first (Chinese zodiac). Grimm Press, Taiwan, 2007.
4. Jack and the Beanstalk. Motessori, Korea, 2006.
5. John Lithgow. Mahalia Mouse goes to college. Simon&Shuster, USA, 2007.
6. K.DiKamillo. Adventures of a little mouse Despereaux. Machaon, Russia, 2008.

Bibliography.

1. J. R. R. Tolkien . Hobbit. 2000 AST Russia
2. E.Uspenskii,A.Usachev .Horrors (3 b.) 2000 Astrel Russia
3. E.Uspenskii .Hey you red and freckled. 2001 AST Russia
4. A.Usachev .Orange camel 2002 Dropha Russia
5. Taking part in the “Branches and Roots” project 2002 Grimm Press Taiwan
6. A.Usachev .Fabulous history of aeronautics 2003 Rosman Russia
7. Grimm brothers. Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs 2003 Tormont Canada
8. Ch. Perrault .Cynderella 2003 Tormont Canada
9. A Hungry Giant from Tundra 2003 Froebel Korea
- 10.H.Paeshuys. Les aventures de Lara au stageponey 2003 Cantecler Belgium
11. Pegasus 2003 Minoas Greece
- 12 L.Tolstoi.Ivan the Fool and his two Brothers 2003 Woonjin Korea
Children’s periodicals 1986-1999 Russia
13. A.Usachev .Fabulous history of sailing 2004 Rosman Russia
14. Jean-Henri Fabre (biography) 2004 Motessori Korea
- 15.N.Gogol. Nose 2004 Grimm Press Taiwan

16. N.E.Walker-Guye.What's happened with Easter Bunny 2005 Nordsud Verlag Switzerland
17. S.Kovalenkov.Blue umbrella 2005 Gakken Japan
18. Griffin, the eternal guardian of gold 2005 Gilbut Korea
19. S.Kovalenkov .How Misha'd quarreled with a pillow 2005 Gakken Japan
20. H.C.Andersen.Nightingale 2006 Grimm Press Taiwan
21. Jack and the Beanstalk 2006 Motessori Korea
22. J. Lithgow.Mahalia Mouse goes to Colledge 2007 Simon & Shooster
USA
23. Kate Dargau .Who's first (Chinese zodiac) 2007 Grimm Press Taiwan
24. S.Lloyd-Jones.Tiny bear's Bible 2007 Pinguin Group USA
25. R.L.Stevenson.Dr. Jekyll & mr. Hyde 2007 Fabio Italy
26. J.Koons. Arthur & Gwen 2008 Gutton Children's book USA
27. C.Dickens.Christmas stories (Scrooge) 2008 Motessori Korea
28. Pino Q 2008 Grimm Press Taiwan
29. K.DiKamillo. Adventures of a little mouse Despereaux 2008 Machaon
Russia
30. Kate Dargau .The Monster of Nian 2008 Grimm Press Taiwan
31. J.M.Barrie. Peter Pan (calendar) 2008 "Neverland" company Russia
32. B.Burns. Irish Tales 2008 Sterling USA
33. Firebird . 2008 Azbucka Russia
34. K.Chukovskiy. The great book of poems and tales 2009 Machaon
Russia

35. K.T.Hao. Bear & Butterfly 2009 Grimm Press Taiwan
36. Grimm brothers 2009 Grimm Press Taiwan
37. Grimm brothers. Bremen Town Musicians 2009 Grimm Press Taiwan
38. B.Burns. Peter Pan 2009 Gakken Japan
39. A.Usachev. Lullaby Book 2009 Ripol Classic Russia
40. Kate Dargau..Legend of the eastern calendar 2009 Azbucka Russia
41. H.C.Andersen The Emperor and the Nightingale 2009 Azbucka
Russia
- 41 K.DiKamillo .How the elephant fell from the sky 2009 Machaon Russia
42. S.Prokofieva.The barefoot princess 2010 Moskow Textbooks Russia
43. A.Usachev. Fabulous history of aeronautics 2010 Ripol Russia
43. M.Moskvina, S.Sedov. How Santa Claus came into being 2010 Ripol
Russia
44. D.Kharms. All are flying, running and jumping 2010 Machaon Russia
45. Magic Brush 2010 Grimm Press Taiwan
46. K.T.Hao. Confucius Panda 2010 Grimm Press Taiwan
47. A.Usachev .Cat-fight 1 2011 Clever Media Group Russia
48. L.Yahnin. Myths of Northern Europe 2011 Machaon Russia
- 49.I.Brodskiy. Ballad of a small tow 2011 Azbuka Russia
50. A.Usachev .Cat-fight 2 2011 Clever Media Group Russia
51. Ballads of Robin Hood 2011 Contact Culture Russia
52. A.Usachev .Cat-fight's adventures 2011 Clever Media Group Russia
53. J.J.Harris.Uncle Rimus' tales 2012 Aquarel Russia
54. J.J.Harris.Brother Rabbit Fisherman 2013 Aquarel Russia

- 55. I..Brodskiy. Worker ABC 2013 Aquarel Russia
- 56. A.Tolstoi. Aelita 2013 IDM Russia
- 57. S.Prokofieva .Two fiancées 2013 Seraphim and Sophia Russia
- 58. J.Supervielle.Wool and Donkey beside the Manger 2013 Nikea Russia
- 59. J.J.Harris Brother Rabbit & Brother Sparrow 2013 Aquarel Russia
- 60. I.Brodskiy. Who discovered America 2013 Aquarel Russia



