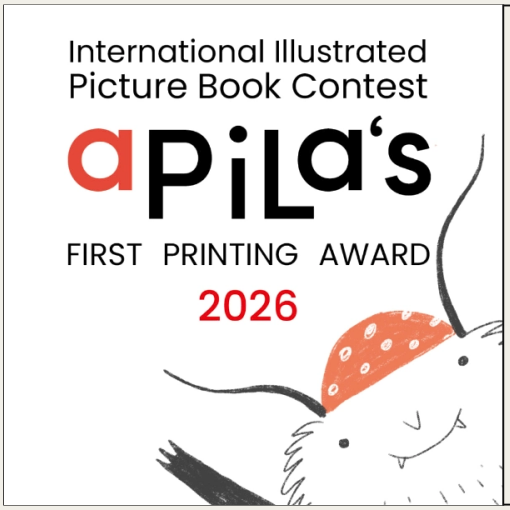


ILLUSTRATION

APILA'S FIRST PRINTING AWARD 2026

DEADLINE

15 FEB 2026

ENTRIES CLOSED

POSTED	ENTRY FEE	ONLINE
11 Jul 2025	SEE ARTICLE DETAILS	VISIT ORGANIZER

DETAILS / KEEP FOR REFERENCE

SOURCE: GRAPHIC COMPETITIONS

Apila's First Printing Award 2026 continues the tradition of celebrating emerging talent in children's book illustration, positioning itself as a leading international illustrated picture-book contest. Organized by Apila Ediciones in collaboration with the prestigious Escuela Superior de Diseño de Aragón, the competition spotlights illustrators who have not yet published a picture book with an ISBN, giving them a professional platform to showcase their unique artistic voices. Since its inception in 2013, the award has become synonymous with innovative storytelling, encouraging participants to push the boundaries of visual narrative and engage young readers through compelling imagery.

Building on the success of previous editions, the First Printing Award 2026 emphasizes quality, creativity, and market readiness, ensuring that the winning project meets the high standards of contemporary children's publishing. Apila Ediciones brings its extensive experience in the children's book industry to guide selected illustrators through every step of the publication process, from manuscript development and art direction to printing and distribution. The Escola Superior de Diseño de Aragón contributes its academic expertise, offering mentorship and critical feedback to help entrants refine their book concepts and illustration techniques, making the award a comprehensive incubator for first-time authors and illustrators.

Entries for Apila's First Printing Award 2026 benefit from Apila Ediciones' international distribution network, giving winners the opportunity to reach bookstores, libraries, and educational institutions across Europe and beyond. The contest's focus on emerging illustrators provides a rare chance to secure professional recognition, industry exposure, and tangible career advancement. By combining the creative vision of new talent with the publishing prowess of Apila Ediciones and the educational support of the Escuela Superior de Diseño de Aragón, the award not only produces beautifully illustrated picture books but also cultivates the next generation of children's literature innovators.

There is no entry fee.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to illustrators over the age of 18 who have not yet published a children's book with an ISBN.

PRIZE

Winners will sign a professional contract with Apila Ediciones for the publication of their fully illustrated picture book, receiving a €4,000 award (equivalent to 10% of the value of the first print run) along with international distribution of the book, providing both significant exposure and a platform to launch their careers.