

IBBY- Yamada Fund 2013

I) IBBY France: «Les Doigts Qui Rêvent – Raouf Karray Project»

Description of the project

Scholars assert that early literacy starts long before learning to read and to write, the pleasure of reading begins with parents reading aloud while the child looks at/touches the pictures; pictures help “to name the world” and understand it.

Visually impaired children are deprived of all this and don't have the same opportunities as sighted children because they don't have accessible books. Visually impaired (partially sighted and blind) children don't have any accessible books before the 1st Grade. Afterwards, they only have books in Braille - and that is if the books are available.

Thus, tactile illustrated books (TiB) are very important for them, because the TiB will provide images of a world they can't see, images they can discover by touching them.

Aim of the project

To provide young visually impaired children from Arabic speaking countries with TiB, in order to give them access to reading, to their culture, to a real citizenship.

The relationship between the Tunisian author/illustrator/university teacher Raouf Karray and the French publisher Les Doigts Qui Rêvent (Dreaming Fingers=Ldqqr) has been going on for many years. Several workshops were conducted by Ldqqr in Tunisia during the Sfax Book Fair.

Presentation of the project

Conception and production of two TiB books in Arabic and Braille by Arab authors.

- TiB #1: for visually impaired children from 3 to 5/6 years old: “*The Five Senses*” by Bayan Safadi (Syria)
- TiB #2: for visually impaired children from 6 to 10 years old: “*Ghassan Knows to Find the Nicest Place*” by Nabiha Mehaidly (Lebanon).

These 2 TiB should be accessible to sighted and visually impaired children, because the visually impaired children will be able to share them with their sighted peers and their sighted families, and that is the first step for their social integration. Also, visually impaired parents will be able to share these books with their sighted children.

Tangible results expected

- The aim of the first part of this project is to achieve 2 prototypes of TiB in Arabic to present to sponsors and receive the necessary budget for producing the books.
- All visually impaired Arab children should get TiB. Therefore, these 2 prototypes will have to be produced in many copies and sold at a very low cost to be affordable for families, special schools and mainstream schools with visually impaired students. These 2 TiB will be

seen and touched by teachers for the blind, families, librarians, art students so as to show that it is possible for visually impaired children to have accessible books, as beautiful as the ones for sighted children. Furthermore, these books can be shared with sighted children.

- Once these books are produced by Ldq, presentations will be made at International Book Fairs, for example, in Sharjah, UAE in November.

Presentation of Raouf Karray



"I'm Raouf Karray, painter, graphic designer, illustrator and teacher of graphic arts in Tunisia. I exhibited y paintings, my giant canvases and my posters around the world; I illustrated bilingual children's books in France, Italy and Tunisia and I received an award at the NOMA Competition; I participated in many Children's Book Fairs like the Paris Book Fair and the International Children's Book Fair in Bologna. I'm also one of the organisers of the Sfax Children's Book Fair in Tunisia. I travelled around the world hitchhiking. I love reading, writing, drawing, painting, travelling and laughing. I love my wife, my children. I love eating natural and vegetarian food."

Source: <http://www.articite.com/fiches-kz/Raouf-Karray-R94.htm>

- **Presentation of Les Doigts Qui Rêvent**



"Ldq is the only publisher specialised in TiB, world known for the quality of its TiB since 1994, able to produce TiB with a quality level never reached by anyone for the tactile pictures, for the Braille, the binding, for the hardcover pages and for the visual aesthetic. Since 1994, over 160 titles were produced in 30 000 copies; among them, 17 titles in 7 languages."