



DOSSIER

Claudia Rueda

2018 HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN AWARD CANDIDATE
FUNDALECTURA, COLOMBIA

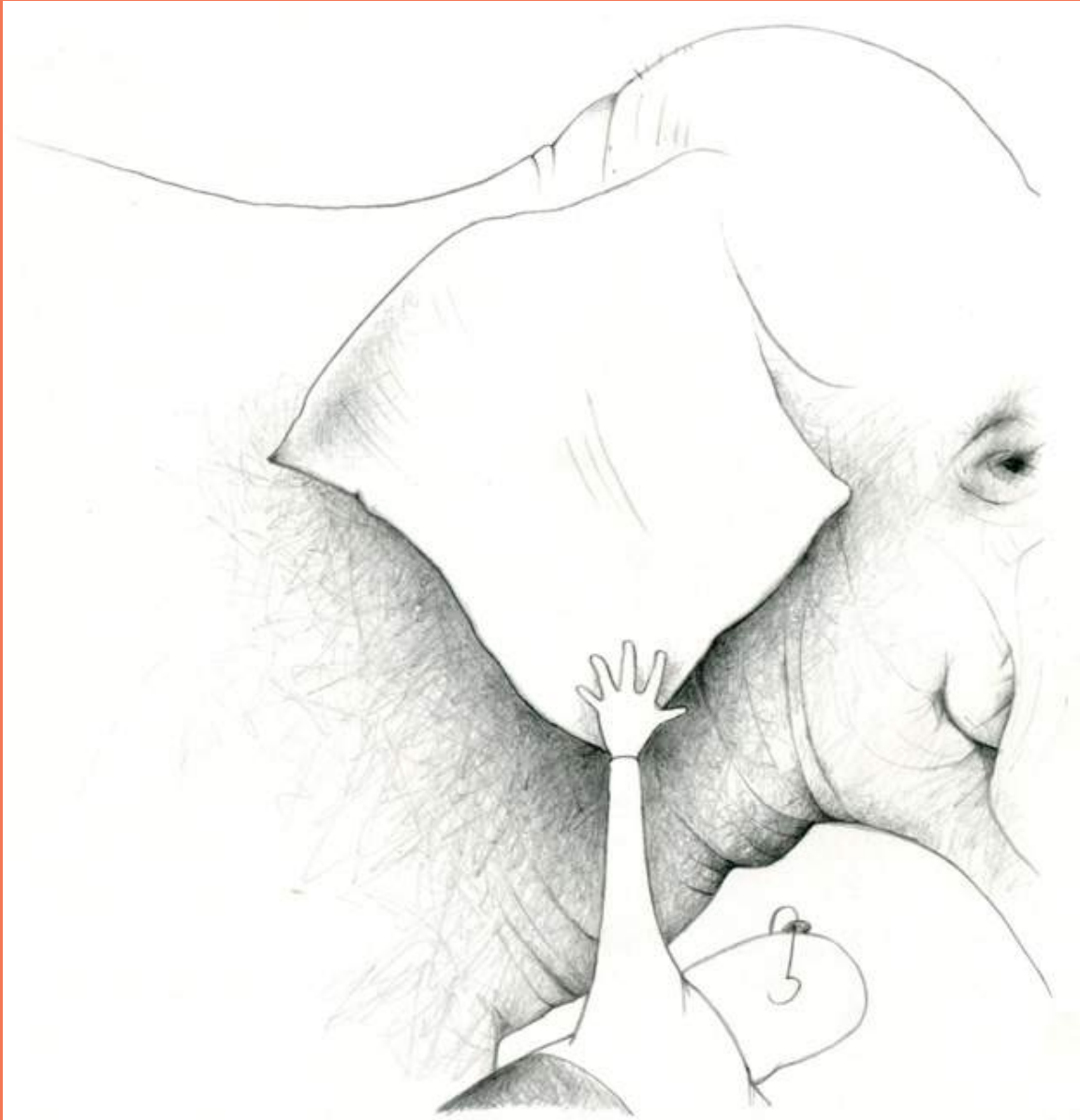




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2018 HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN AWARD CANDIDATE
NOMINATED BY FUNDALECTURA, THE COLOMBIAN SECTION OF IBBY



Bio

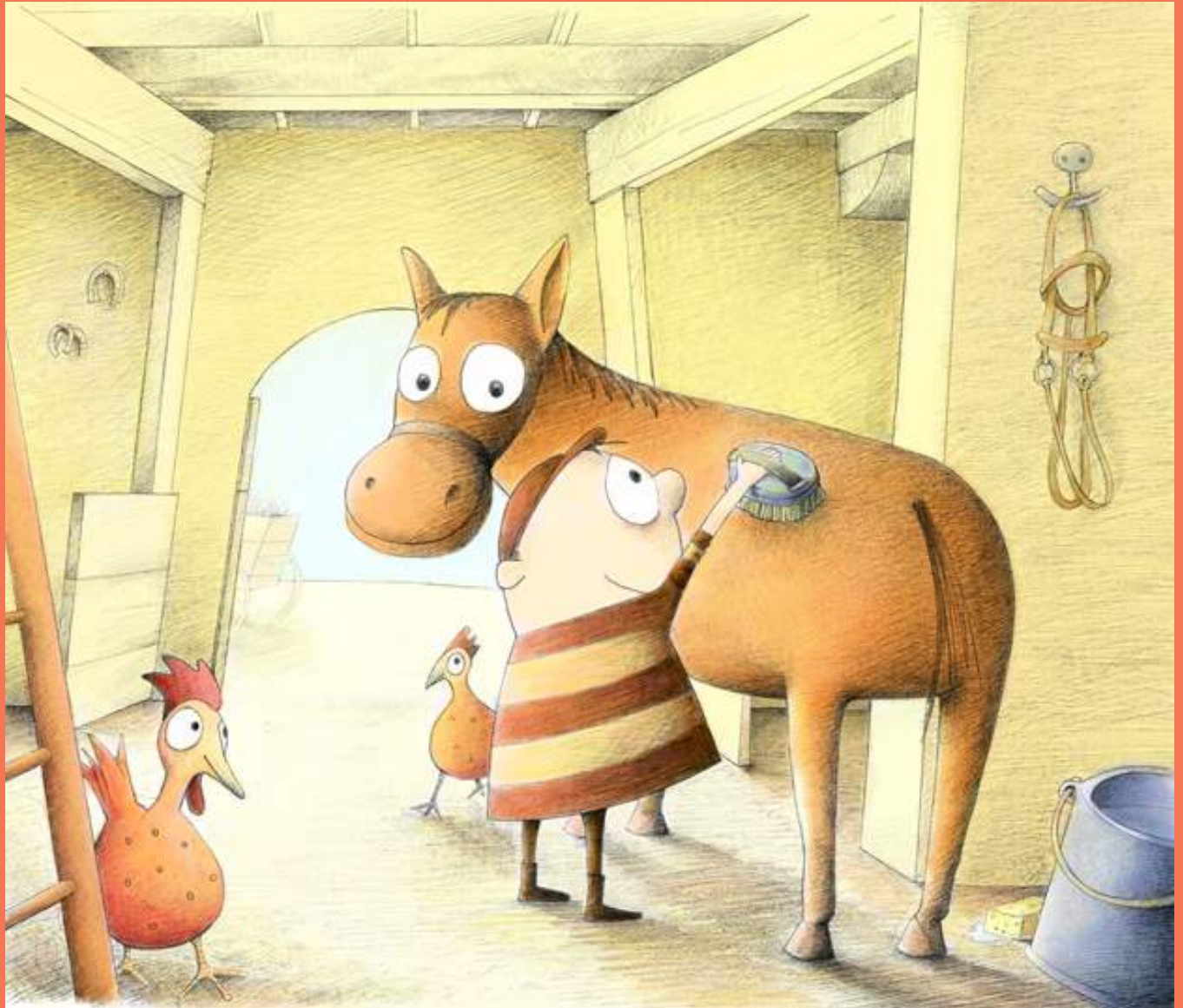
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON THE CANDIDATE

Claudia Rueda is a Colombian writer and illustrator of over twenty picture-books for children. Her work has been described as an ingenious graphic exploration of superb refinement. Rueda's books have been published in Mexico, Colombia, Spain and the United States and have been translated into ten different languages around Asia and Europe. Her work has received several awards including Italy's Nati per Leggere Prize, the selection for the New York Society of illustrators and for the IBBY Honor List. She's also a New York Times Best Seller illustrator and a New York Public Library selection.

Claudia's work has always played around the rich contrast between visual and verbal narratives. Before becoming a picture book author, she developed an interest in political cartooning while attending law and art school in her hometown. Rueda's cartoons were published in the main Colombian newspapers during the times of the drug and guerilla wars. Her law school graduation thesis was a Graphic History of Roman Law. After publishing some educational graphic books on environmental and political issues, Claudia and her husband moved to San Francisco, California to learn about computer graphics and animation. By serendipity she found a course on Children's Books Illustration at the University of Berkeley. Rueda's final class project developed into her first published picturebook after a visit to the Bologna Book Fair while living in Madrid, Spain. She also holds a MFA in Creative Writing from Lesley University at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Claudia was born in Colombia and grew up among three siblings and a book eating dog. She currently lives at 2620 meters above sea level in the big city of Bogotá with her husband and her two daughters.





Statement

ON THE CANDIDATE'S CONTRIBUTION TO LITERATURE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Claudia Rueda: an eye for the essential

By Maria Cristina Rincón

Former Editorial Director of Fundalectura

Colombian Section of IBBY

One of the most recent picturebooks by author Claudia Rueda, *Ahí Estabas*, begins with a pencil finishing a page of straight lines, achieving an orderly and monotonous golden background. It seems that its purpose is to give time to the protagonist, a school-aged girl, to find the right words to express the pain and confusion that she experiences while growing up. That pencil contains something that she also finds in the wind, in stories or in music. It is the essence of what gives meaning to her life: the act of creating worlds in which imagination, humour and reflection can all come to life.

Such are the worlds that Claudia Rueda creates. The pencil brings order to her experiences and memories, the raw material for her children's books. Through the many sketches that precede each one of her works, she takes control of the characters, learns their movements and gestures, and surrounds them only with the elements that she needs in order to tell the story. There is nothing superfluous in her work, often crafted with colour pencils (her favorites), ink, or digital interventions. And to complete her process, Rueda adds many hints and narrative resources to her spare illustrations, compelling her young readers to turn page after page.

Claudia Rueda treats her characters with tenderness, humour and respect, and fills them with curiosity and intelligence.



Claudia Rueda approaches each one of her books as an opportunity to innovate, to deeply reflect on the nature of her craft and to reinvent her style.

With her youngest audience in mind, Claudia Rueda treats her characters with tenderness, humour and respect, and fills them with curiosity and intelligence. The stories have cheerful, loving mothers, always ready to play or to encourage the little ones' adventures, giving them security as they explore their independence. They are ready to help them when they fail or when they make the many mistakes that happen in the early years.

But Rueda's work moves further. Books like *A veces* and *Ahí estabas* resonate with older children, whose questions transcend their own home's walls and who are beginning to look inwardly for answers. Just like the characters from her books, these kids are trying to reconcile the external world with their most intimate feelings and fears. These books seek to explore the uncertainty and even the pain that often come with growing up.

There are several elements that characterize Claudia Rueda's stories, making them solid and consistent: a flawless narrative sequence, extremely expressive characters, the use of a wide variety of creative resources and the employ of counterpoint between the visual and the verbal.

Claudia Rueda approaches each one of her books as an opportunity to innovate, to deeply reflect on the nature of her craft, to reinvent her style, always exploring new possibilities in the relationship between words and pictures. The wide diversity of her picturebooks and of her illustrations shows an unusual versatility that extends even to the books written by other authors. Rueda is a Colombian author and illustrator, whose work is deeply universal, as the nature of all children is essentially the same. The strength of her work lies at the intersection of her endless creativity and her deep understanding of the child's curious mind.



Essay



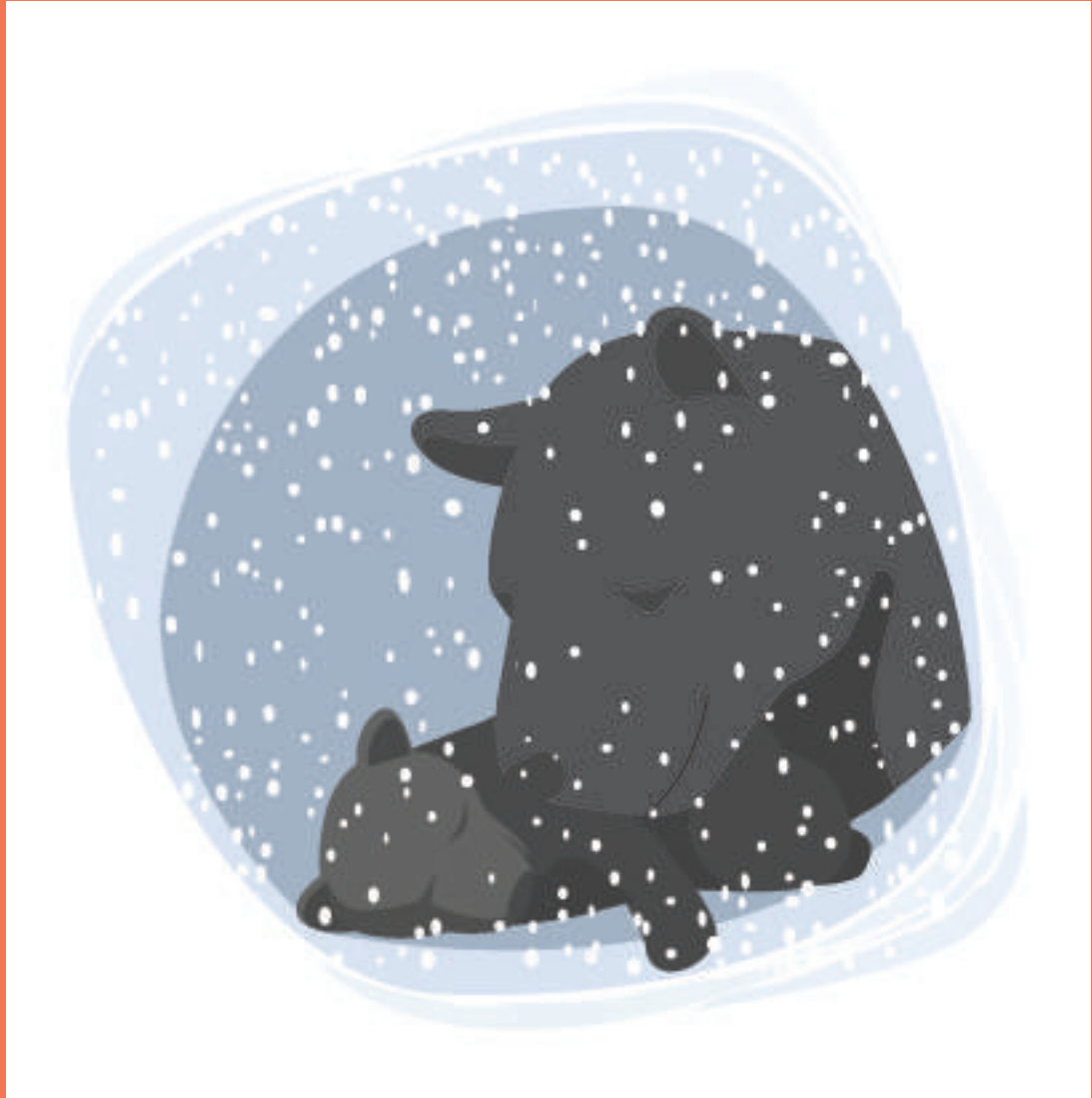
The child's disobedience is a theme appreciated by authors who prefer sense of humor to seriousness as a tool for the dramatization of conflict.

The Rebel Child

An essay on Claudia Rueda's book "No"
By Joëlle Turin

The tasks of learning how to socialize, to have self-control, to incorporate norms and codes and to recognize the other, give the child a coherent framework necessary to grow up as a person, with boundaries and constraints. In order for that to happen, the adult needs strength, attention and flexibility. All the times the child's desires feel suppressed by duties and rules, tension begins between children and adults, and both need to compromise. Compromises are indispensable for the child to grow up surrounded by respect towards his/her young freedom.

The child's disobedience is a theme appreciated by authors who prefer sense of humor to seriousness as a tool for the dramatization of conflict. That's the choice of Claudia Rueda when she writes and illustrates a little bear and his mother in the context of bedtime. The mother knows how much patience she needs with a child that always says "No", one of the infant's first words and where the first rebel act is registered. The bear cub in Claudia's book "No" challenges his mother systematically, because he doesn't want to hibernate to avoid the cold weather, the hunger and the dangers of Winter. The bear cub argues that he doesn't feel sleepy, he doesn't feel cold, that he has saved some nuts, that he's very strong and that he loves the snow and the storms. Fr





Claudia Rueda confirms her dimension as a great and sensible artist by knowing how to use minimalist narrative techniques to suggest profound issues, making them accessible to young readers.

The bear cub reassures himself in front of his mother by acting against her will, illustrating the child's first phase called opposition, a phase where the child becomes conscious of being different from the others. By using the magic word "No" the child reaffirms his differentiation from the others and begins to exist as an individual. The mother, on the other side, knows how much his cub needs reference points that will allow him to lean solidly and boundaries that will make him feel

secure and protected from external aggressions. So the mother uses dialogue, the exchange of words and gazes with her child, so he can enjoy the power of words, of the negative affirmation, and endless source of enjoyment used by every child in an immoderate form.

The final cub's pirouette is an exchange of roles, since now he wants to protect his mother from the Winter, feeding the triumphant narcissism of the child... although spoiled by his mother in an enjoyable complicity.

Claudia Rueda confirms her dimension as a great and sensible artist by knowing how to use minimalist narrative techniques to suggest profound issues, making them accessible to young readers. All her picture book goes on that same direction: the texture of the pages so soft to the touch, the roundness of her characters and their position in the page in order to suggest the relationship among them, the dialogues and the final vignette that reminds us how the mother's frustration assumed by the mother until that final moment

Interview





I brought the curiosity from my childhood

Interview with children's book author Claudia Rueda

By Fernando Quiroz

Published in El Tiempo newspaper, May 1 2014.

Three Blind Men and an Elephant was the name of Claudia Rueda's first picture book. While living in San Francisco, California she found a Children's Books illustration course at UC Berkeley of what would become her work and her passion. A passion that has led her to write and illustrate more than a dozen of books for children and for the adults who preserve their childhood's curiosity. Her titles have been translated into more than ten different languages and have received outstanding awards. Among her books are the resonating *Vaya Apetito Tiene el Zorrillo* (What a Hungry Little Fox), the amusing *La Vida Salvaje* (The Wild Life) and the profound *La Suerte de Ozu* (Ozu's Luck). The latter inspired by a Taoist tale following her interest in the thoughtfulness and open endings of Eastern stories. Claudia Rueda's two daughters have prompted her fascination with childhood. From them she has learned not to repeat herself, to readjust to the different stages of life and to keep her eyes open.

When did you discover that you liked to draw?

Every child likes to draw. It's just that at the age when they ask you to put your box of colors away I decided not to do it and to keep drawing.

What does it mean to write and illustrate for children?

It means to allow playfulness, curiosity and an exploration spirit to build the stories that follow you.

Do you agree with people who say that children are the toughest audience?

I have a great respect for young readers and I've never felt like looking down when I talk to a child. It's a challenge that makes us better as human beings.



What do you keep from your childhood?

The curiosity and the playfulness.

Which are the children qualities you admire the most?

I admire the freedom of their imagination and their capacity for wonder. The possibility of making an airplane out of a card box.

What do you need in order to create?

I need to be alone and to have a pencil in my hand.

Where do you look for inspiration?

In Greek mythology the muses are the daughters of Memory and their guide is Apollo, the god of Truth. What I do is the result of the things I discover and the ones I remember.

Are you interested in delivering a moral in your stories?

I want my stories to be meaningful for the people who read them. But I also wish this meaning to be different for each individual and not a monolithic answer.

Which is your favorite fable?

I have many favorites, but maybe the one about three frogs who fall into a pit. All the other frogs gather around the hole and discourage them from trying to jump out because the pit is too deep. Two of the frogs finally give up following the advice. The third one keeps jumping and trying until it jumps out of the deep pit. Why did you keep leaping even though we yelled at you to stop? ask the other frogs. It was then that the frog explained to them that he was deaf. It's a fable that applies to creative people and to those who think different.

Which of your childhood stories you remember the most?

I had very limited access to children's literature as a child. I can remember reading the collections of stories by Oscar Wilde, the Brothers Grimm and H.C. Andersen.

What is the most precious thing you've learned from your parents?

I've learned from my mother the enthusiasm towards life. My father passed away when I was just beginning to understand.



Awards

AND DISTINCTIONS



- 2016 New York Public Library Best Books for Kids Selection (*Bunny Slopes*)
- 2016 Amazon Little Bookworms Selection (*Bunny Slopes*)
- 2016 Junior Library Guild Selection (*Bunny Slopes*)
- 2016 Hans Christian Andersen Nomination
- 2016 Astrid Lindgren Award Nomination
- 2016 Bank Street College Best Children's Books (*Here Comes The Easter Cat & Here Comes Santa Cat*)
- 2015 The WSRA "Picture This" Selection (*Here Comes The Easter Cat & Here Comes Santa Cat*)
- 2014 Kirkus Best Books of 2014 (*Here Comes the Easter Cat*)
- 2014 Goodreads Choice Awards 2014 (*Here Comes the Easter Cat*)
- 2014 The New York Times Bestseller (*Here Comes the Easter Cat*)
- 2014 XIX Premio Internacional del Libro Ilustrado de Mexico (*Letras Robadas*)
- 2014 Los Mejores Álbumes Ilustrados de 2013 diario EL PAIS (*Letras Robadas*)
- 2014 Amazon Book of the Month (*Here Comes the Easter Cat*)
- 2014 Fundación Cuatrogatos Award (*Letras Robadas*)
- 2012 Nati Per Leggere Award (*No – Italian edition*)
- 2012 Prix Sorcières Selection (*No – French edition*)
- 2012 UK Coventry Inspiration Book Award shortlist (*Huff & Puff*)
- 2011 University of Wisconsin CCBC choice selection (*No, USA edition*)
- 2009 Oppenheim Platinum Award (*My Little Polar Bear*)
- 2009 NYC Society of Illustrators Original Art Show selection (*My Little Polar Bear*)
- 2009 CANIEM Design Award (*Formas*)
- 2008 IBBY Honor List Nomination – Colombian Chapter (*Let's Play in the Forest*)
- 2006 National Parenting Publications Gold Award (*Let's Play in the Forest*)
- 2005 NYC Society of Illustrators Original Art Show selection (*Nacho and Lolita*)
- 2005 CHILD magazine Best Children's Books (*Nacho and Lolita*)
- 2003 A La Orilla del Viento Award (*La Suerte de Ozu*)

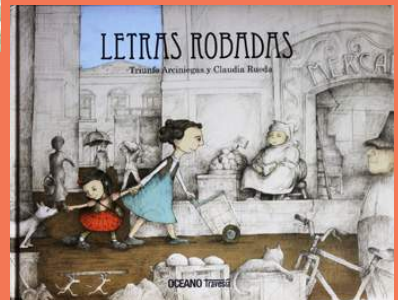
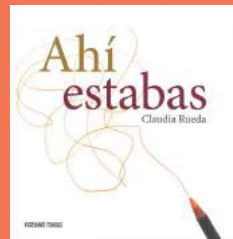
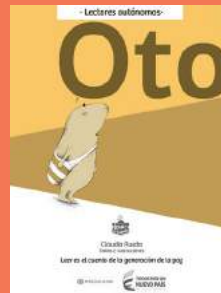
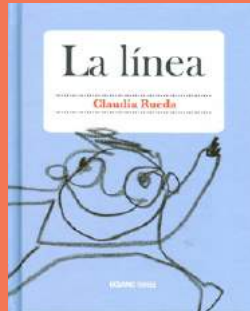


Books



BIBLIOGRAPHY

As writer & illustrator



2016

¿Qué será lo que lleva ahí?
(What's he carrying there?)
Colombia · Ed. Planeta

Oto (Oto)
Colombia · Mineducación

Bunny Slopes
USA · Chronicle Books

La Línea (The Line)
Mexico · Ed. Oceano

2015

¿De donde salió esa cosa roja?
(Where does this red thing comes from?)
¿De donde salió esa cosa verde?
(Where does this green thing comes from?)
¿De donde salió esa cosa amarilla?
(Where does this yellow thing comes from?)
¿De donde salió esa cosa azul?
(Where does this blue thing comes from?)

Spain · Ed.Oceano

2014

Ahí Estabas
(You Were There)
Spain · Ed Oceano

Jugar con Letras
(Word Play)
Spain · Ed SM

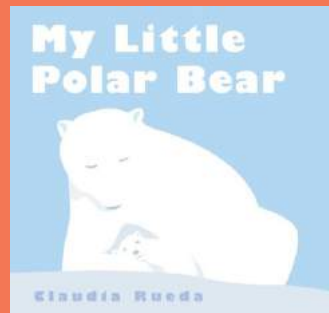
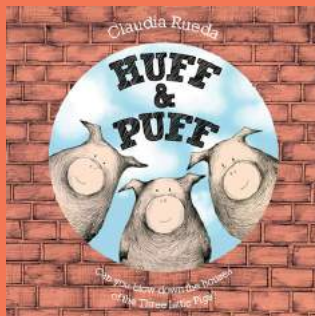
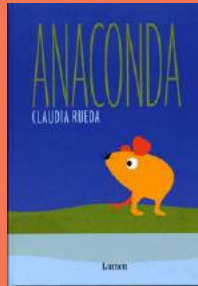
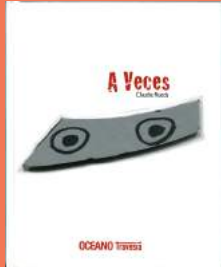
2013

La Paca y El Escarabajo
(The Paca and The Beetle)
Colombia · Ed. Norma

Letras Robadas
(Stolen Letters)
Spain · Ed Oceano

BIBLIOGRAPHY

As writer & illustrator



2012

Huff & Puff
USA · Abrams Books

Todo Es Relativo
(It's All Relative)
Spain · Ed Oceano

A Veces (Sometimes) ·
2012 · Spain · Ed Oceano

2010

No (No)
Spain · Ed Oceano

Pum (Boom)
Spain · Ed Oceano

Anaconda (Anaconda) ·
Colombia · Ed Random
House

2009

Un Día de Lluvia
(A Rainy Day)
Spain · Ed Oceano

Formas (Shapes)
Spain · Ed Oceano

My Little Polar Bear
USA · Scholastic Press

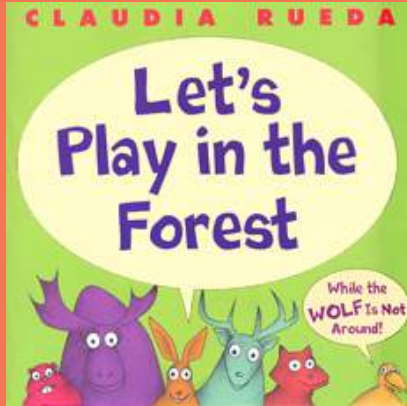
2007

*Dos Ratones, una Rata
y un Queso*
(Two Mice, A Rat and a
Piece of Cheese)
Mexico · Ed Oceano

*La Vida Salvaje: Diario
de Una Aventura*
(Wild Life: Diary of an
Adventure)
Mexico · Ed Oceano

BIBLIOGRAPHY

As writer &
illustrator



2006

Vaya apetito tiene el zorrito
(What a Hungry Little Fox)
Spain · Ed Serres

Let's Play in the Forest
While the Wolf Is Not
Around
USA · Scholastic Press

2005

Mientras se enfría el pastel
(While The Cake Cools
Down)
Spain · Ed Serres

2004

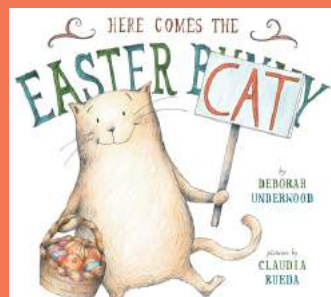
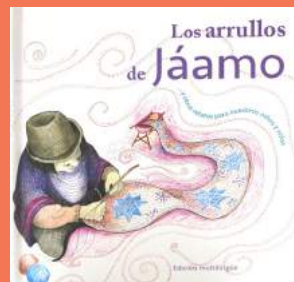
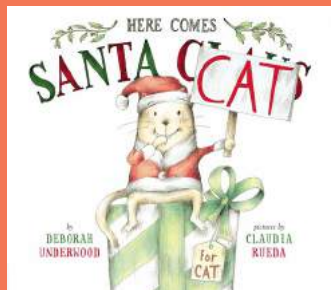
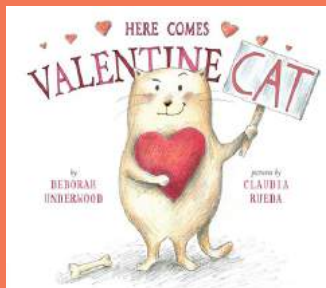
La suerte de Ozu
(Ozu's Luck)
Mexico · Ed Fondo de
cultura Economica

2002

Tres ciegos y un elefante
(Three Blind Men and an
Elephant)
Spain · Ed Imaginarium

BIBLIOGRAPHY

As illustrator



2015

Here Comes The Tooth Fairy Cat
Text by Deborah Underwood
USA · Dial Penguin

Here Comes Valentine Cat
Text by Deborah Underwood
USA · Dial Penguin

2014

Here Comes The Easter Cat
Here Comes Santa Cat
Text by Deborah Underwood
USA · Dial Penguin

Los Arrullos del Jáamo
(Jaamo's Lullabies)
Text by Jesus Mario Girón
Colombia · Instituto Colombiano de
Bienestar Familiar & Fundalectura

2013

Bosque Adentro: Cuentos de Grimm
(Into The Forest: Grimms Tales)
Colombia · Ed Ministerio de Cultura

2011

La Amistad Bate la Cola
(Friendship Wags its Tail)
Text by Marina Colasanti
Colombia · Ed Alfaguara

BIBLIOGRAPHY

As
illustrator



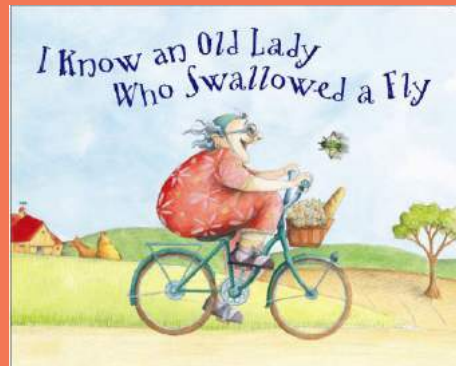
2007

El Valle de los Cocuyos
(The Valley of the Fireflies) ·
Text by Gloria Cecilia Diaz ·
Colombia · Ediciones SM



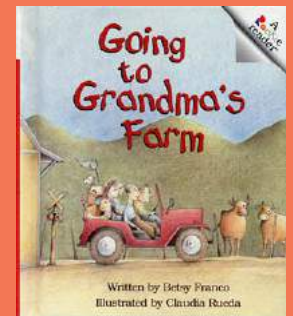
2005

Nacho and Lolita
Text by Pam Muñoz
USA · Scholastic Press



2004

*I Know an Old Lady Who
Swallowed a Fly*
USA · Intervisual Books



2003

Going to Grandma's Farm
Text by Betsy Franco
USA · Childrens Press



我和馬蒂爾達
的大冒險

Claudia Rueda
relatif
Tout est relatif

Claudia Rueda
Camacho & Gros
Zemlichaus

To mus,
en rotte
og et stykke

やだよ
イタリアナチーベル・レツジャーレ賞受賞!
ほく、まだねむたくないよ!

UN DRÔLE DE
PÈRE NOËL
JEWELX
NOËL I

GESTATTE
OSTER
CLAUDIA RUEDA

ふって!ふって!

치구야,
기다려

滑雪小站

Saute
Lapin
Claudia Rueda

Mentre
es refreda
el pastís
Claudia Rueda

상대적이야
LUK

모양들의 여행

了乳酪?

MÉTAL

RUE DU MONDE

Translations

LIST OF TRANSLATED EDITIONS AND THEIR LANGUAGES

Bunny Slopes (*Chronicle*)

French (Bayard Editions)
Chinese (Beijing Poplar Culture Project Co., Ltd)
Korean (Boisforet)
Italian (Lapis Edizioni)
Japanese (Froebel-kan Co., Ltd.)
Taiwan (Children's Publications Co., Ltd)
Turkish (SEV publishing)
German (Gerstenberg Verlag)

Here Comes the Easter Cat (*Penguin*)

German (Loewe Verlag GmbH)
Chinese (Beijing Poplar Culture Project Co., Ltd.)

Here Comes the Santa Cat (*Penguin*)

French (Editions Circonflexe)
German (Loewe Verlag GmbH)
Chinese (Beijing Poplar Culture Project Co., Ltd.)

Here Comes the Tooth Fairy Cat (*Penguin*)

Chinese (Beijing Poplar Culture Project Co., Ltd.)

Here Comes Valentine Cat (*Penguin*)

Chinese (Beijing Poplar Culture Project Co., Ltd.)

Here Comes Teacher Cat (*Penguin*)

Chinese (Beijing Poplar Culture Project Co., Ltd.)

Todo es Relativo (*Oceano*)

French (Kaléidoscope)
Chinese (Shanghai Century Publishing)
Korean (Luk Books)
German (Gerstenberg Verlag)
English (Aardman)

A Veces (*Oceano*)

Portuguese (Pensarte)
Chinese (Beijing Zhengqing Culture & Art Co.)
Korean (Luk Books)

La Suerte de Ozu (*Fondo de Cultura Económica*)

French (Les 400 coups)
Portuguese (Fondo de Cultura Económica)
Chinese Taiwan (Ollin Publishing Co.)

No (*Oceano*)

French (Rue Du Monde)
Italian (Lapis Edizioni)
Chinese (Shanghai Century Publishing)
Chinese Taiwan (Ollin Publishing Co.)
Japanese (Nishimura)
English (Groundwood)
Portuguese (Pensarte)

Formas (*Oceano*)

Korean (Damphus)
French (Alice)
Portuguese (Hedra Educação)
Chinese (Phei Publishing House)

La Vida Salvaje (*Oceano*)

Korean (Bookstory)
Chinese (168 Books)
Chinese (Shanghai Century Publishing)
Portuguese (Pensarte)

Dos Ratones, Una Rata y Un Queso (*Oceano*)

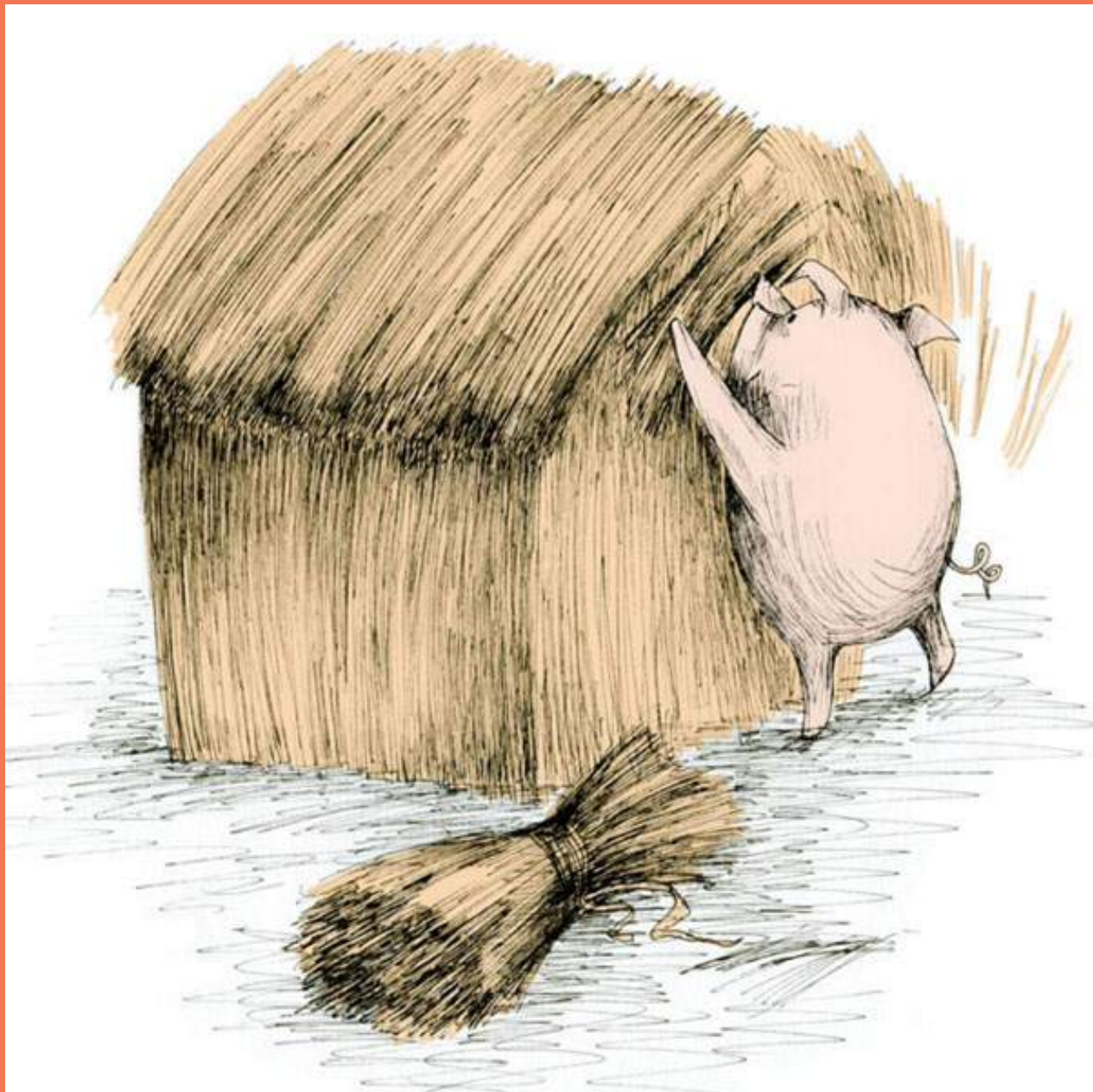
Danish (Turbine)
Chinese (168 Books)
Korean (Bookstory)

Un Día de Lluvia (*Oceano*)

Portuguese (Pensarte)

Mientras se Enfía el Pastel (*Serres*)

Catalan (Serres)



Five

OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TITLES BY THE CANDIDATE

1- No

Translated to seven different languages

Winner of the 2012 Nati per Leggere Award in Italy

A 2012 Prix Sorcière selection in France

More than 20 reviews published in English, Spanish and French

The Cooperative Children's Book Center Choice selection in the USA

2 - Here Comes The Easter Cat

2014 New York Times Best Seller

Four Starred Reviews in the USA

Kirkus selection as One of the Best Picturebooks of 2014

Amazon Book of the Month

2015 Bank Street College Best Children's Books selection

3- Letras Robadas

Winner of the Fundación Cuatro Gatos 2014 Award

Winner of the Mexican National Council for Culture and Arts 2014 Best Picture Book Award

El País (Spain) Ten Best Picture Books of 2013 list

Nominated by the Colombian IBBY chapter for the Italian IBBY list of multilingual books

4 - Huff & Puff

2012 UK Coventry Inspiration Book Award shortlist

Important because of the innovative metafictional character of the book.

The reader blows into a hole and moves the story forward

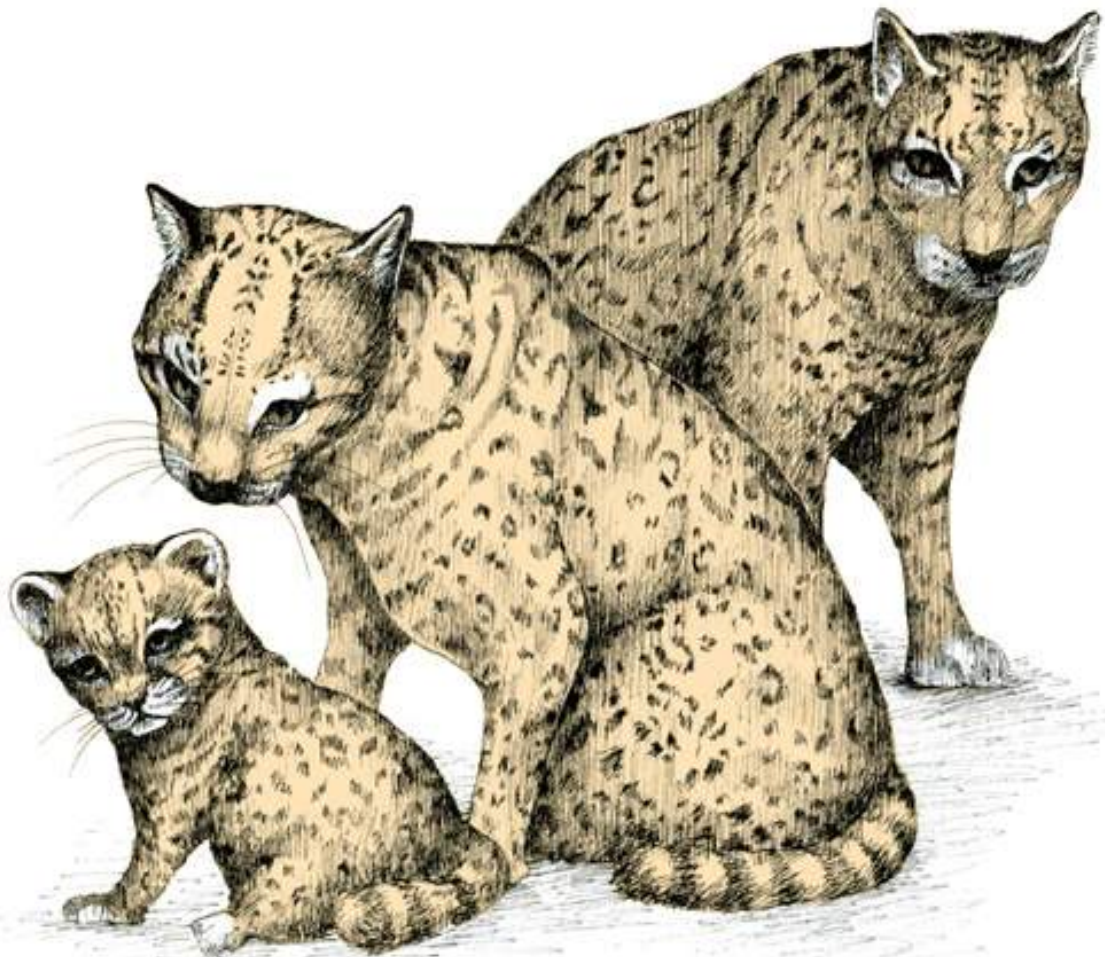
5- Bunny Slopes

Translated to eight different languages

New York Public Library Best Books for Kids Selection

Junior Library Guild Selection





List

OF THE BOOKS SENT TO THE JURORS

1- La Línea

2 -Bunny Slopes

3- ¿Qué será lo que lleva ahí?

4 - A Veces

5- Todo es Relativo



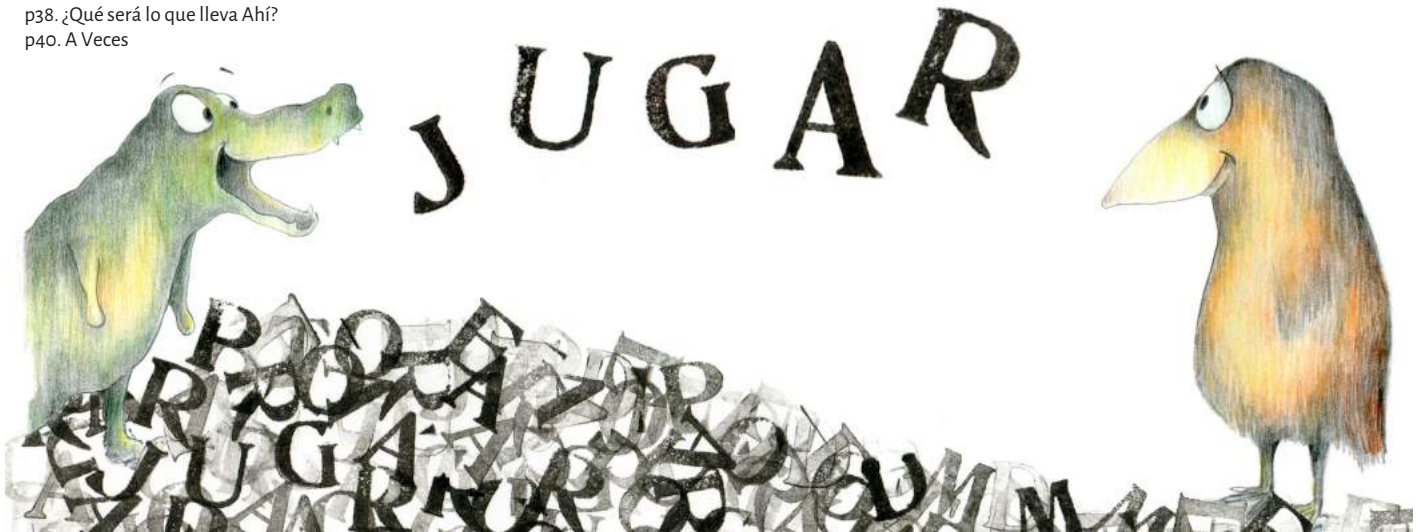




Credits

Unless noted otherwise, images and texts are by Claudia Rueda. Illustrations are from the following books by Claudia Rueda:

- p1. Letras Robadas
- p2. La Paca y el Escarabajo
- p3. Huff & Puff
- p4. Tres Ciegos y un Elefante
- p5. Photograph by Oceano Travesía
- p6. La Suerte de Ozu
- p8. Nacho & Lolita
- p10. No
- p12. No
- p14. Here Comes the Easter Cat
- p16. Dos Ratones Una Rata y Un Queso
- p17. Anaconda
- p18. Bunny Slopes
- p19. Bunny Slopes plush by Merry Makers
- p20. Un Día de Lluvia
- p28. Huff & Puff
- p30. Qué Será lo que Lleva Ahí?
- p32. Vaya Apetito Tiene el Zorrito
- p36. Mientras se Enfía el Pastel
- p37. Jugar con Letras
- p38. ¿Qué será lo que Lleva Ahí?
- p40. A Veces



Contact



CONTACT INFORMATION

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www.claudiarueda.com

CLAUDIA WANTS TO SAY

Thanks!

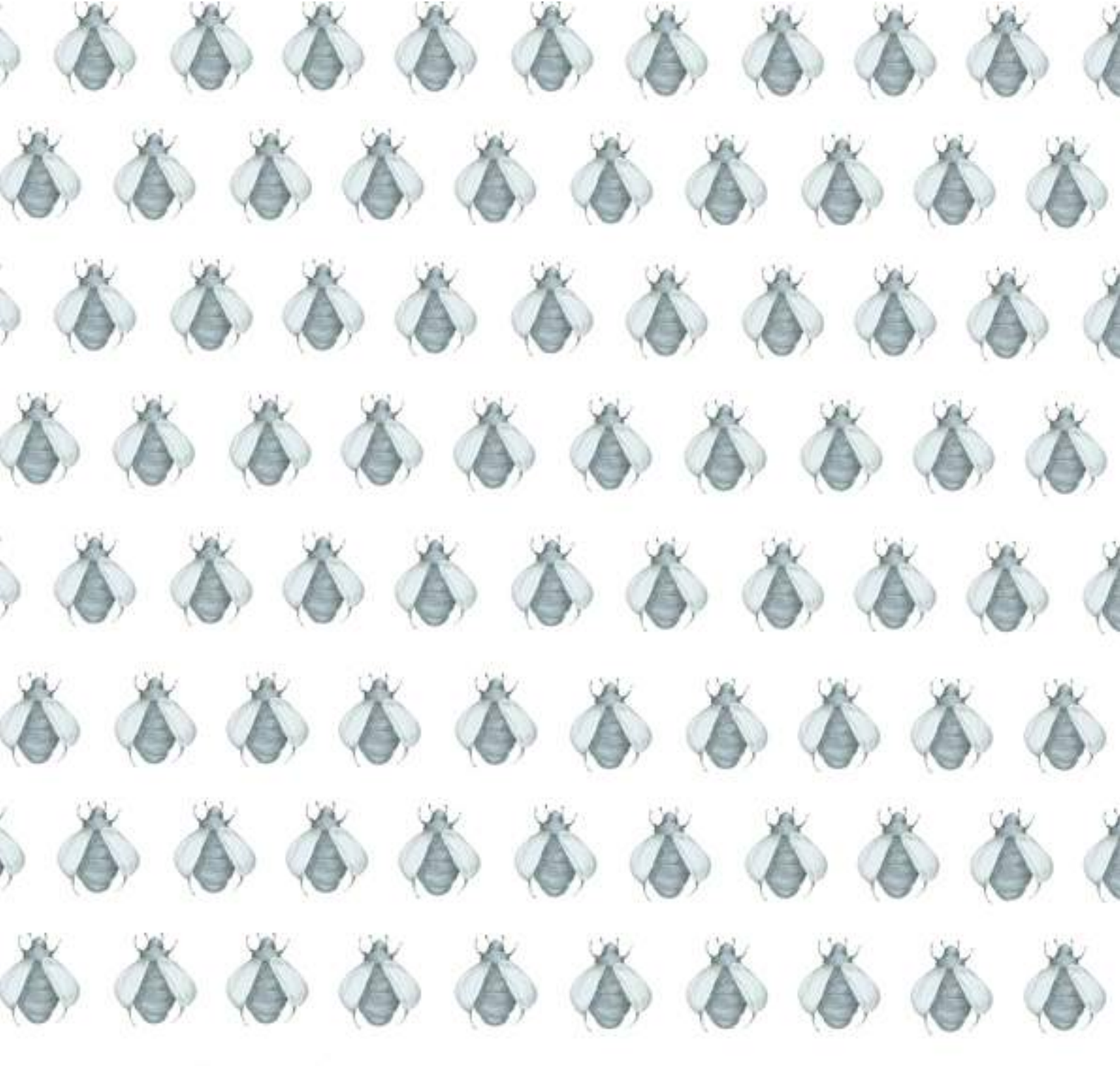
To my dear editors:

Isabel Martínez at *Imaginarium*
Daniel Goldin at *Oceano Travesía*
Tracy Mack at *Scholastic Press*
Chad Beckerman at *Abrams*
Maria Fernanda Paz at *Ediciones SM*
Jessica Garrison at *Dial Penguin*
Ariel Richardson at *Chronicle Books*

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