

31st Havana International Book Fair ended

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The Feria del Libro attracted around 400,000 visitors this year (Source: [Juventud Rebelde](#))

In Cuba's capital Havana, the 31st International Book Fair ("Feria del Libro de la Habana", [FILH](#)) came to an end on Sunday. The ten-day event is considered one of the most important literary events in Latin America and was held this year, as always, on the grounds of the historic port fortress of the Cuban capital, "San Carlos de la Cabaña".

This year, 411 exhibitors from 54 countries participated, 19 more than in the first post-Corona edition, FILH 2022. The guest country was Colombia, from which more than 20 writers arrived.

Colombia's new vice president, Francia Márquez, emphasized the potential of both countries for regional integration during her opening speech at the fair and acknowledged Cuba's commitment as a mediator in her country's peace process. "Cultural relations between our two countries are an asset that must be strengthened, and the Havana Book Fair is an excellent opportunity to do so," Márquez said.

During the fair, some 400 new domestic and international publications were presented and the two most important Cuban literary prizes, the Alejandro Carpentier Prize and the Nicolás Guillén Prize, were awarded. This year, in the poetry category, the work "The Bus of Babel" by the author Carlos Esquivel was awarded. This is "connoted compositional dramaturgy in which the lyrical subject enters into dialogue with historical figures such as Trotsky, Stalin, Breton, Reinaldo Arenas, Wittgenstein, Diderot and others through a philosophical perspective that questions reality," according to the jury's statement.

Spanish journalist and media scholar Ignacio Ramonet presented his new book, "The Era of Conspiracy Narratives. Trump, the Cult of Lies and the Attack on the Capitol."



Children's literature and the new publications of Cuba's scientific publishers were, as usual, among the best-selling books (source: [Juventud Rebelde](#))

The island's social science publishers also renewed their offerings. In libraries and other cultural venues in the city, numerous readings, concerts, film screenings and art exhibitions took place in parallel with the events at the "Cabaña." Under the title "Technologies to Tell Stories," the Office of the Havana City Historian hosted an exhibition on ongoing digitization projects and new methods of teaching history, and visitors were able to use QR codes to access some historical works that had already been processed.

This year, the book fair drew 400,000 visitors from Cuba and around the world, slightly more than before the pandemic. "The large number of young people" was "one of the highlights of this year's edition," reports the Cuban portal [Juventud Rebelde](#).

More than 700,000 books changed hands. As usual, part of the offer is sold at subsidized prices, with which the organizers want to emphasize the audience-oriented and non-commercial character of the fair. After the conclusion of the event in Havana, the publishers' stands will continue to move from west to east through all the provinces until March 19, where readings and sales will take place on a smaller scale.