

American Society of  
Bookplate  
Collectors & Designers

# Making a Bookplate

*Marks of Pride in the Ownership of Books*

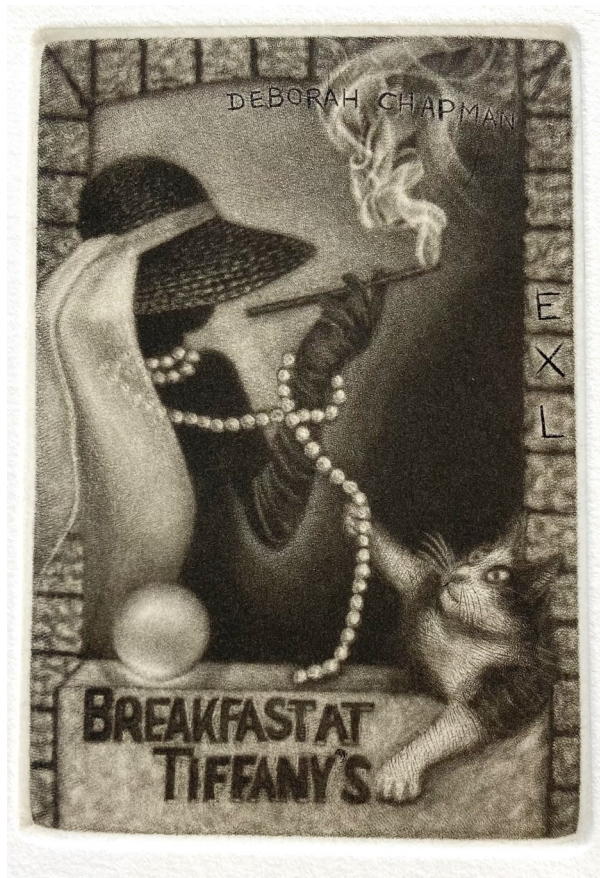


*Breakfast at Tiffany's World Bookplate Competition*

*A Tribute to Truman Capote (1924-1984)*

<https://bookplate.org>

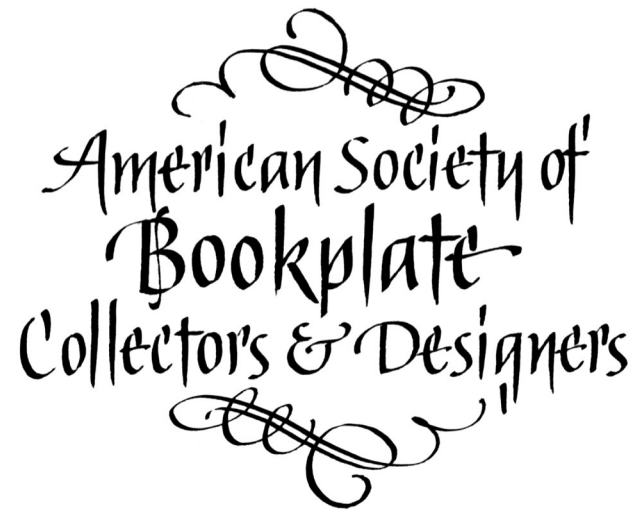
*Cambridge Bookplate*



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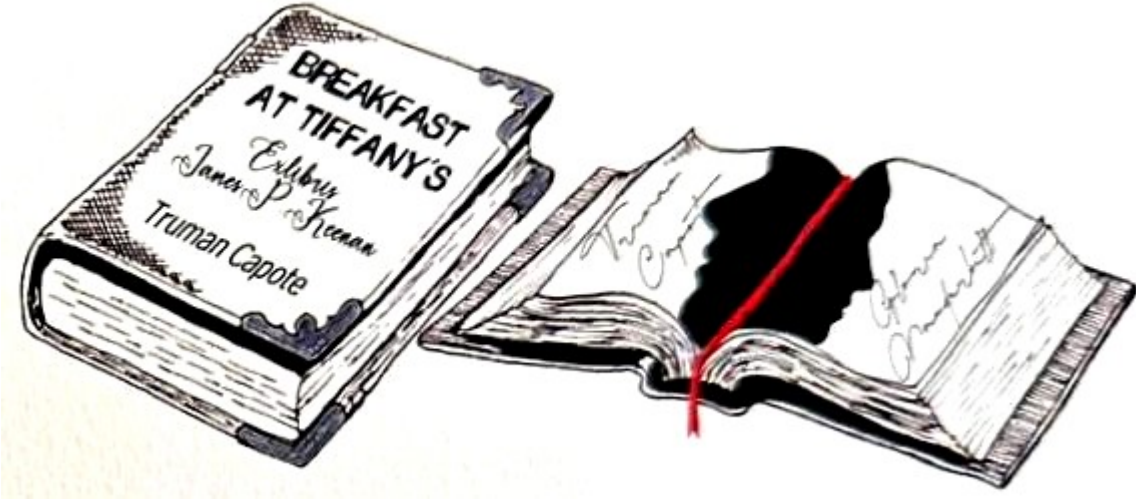
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<https://bookplate.org>

*Global network celebrating 575 years of bookplate artists & collectors*

*Cambridge Bookplate*



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ISSN: 0275-1569

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*Logo Calligraphy by Joke van den Brandt, Belgium*

## MAKING A BOOKPLATE

James P. Keenan

*If this book should dare to roam, box its ears and send it home!*

If you are new to the art of the bookplate, you may need some guidance in commissioning your first design and getting acquainted with the process of building a traditional collection. The American Society of Bookplate Collectors & Designers (ASBC&D) and Victoria University in New Zealand sponsor annual competitions to present outstanding book artists to the public.

Since you will be affixing the prints into your cherished editions, you should not cut any corners in reproducing your bookplates - they should be examples of fine printing, always using archival quality papers. Commissioning the best artists you can afford will give you the most outstanding value for exchanges. A rewarding pastime where you will collect *ex libris* by the most important printmakers and book artists in the world today! A collection that will have value in the future.

Today, leading Chinese and Japanese printmakers produce fine, beautiful, multi-color woodcut bookplates. Artists throughout Eastern Europe and Russia have turned out exquisite mezzotints and aquatints. Wood, copper engravings, serigraphs, and etchings are created by artists in Western Europe. Works are produced in various media in Canada, the United States, Mexico, and South America. Despite these trends toward sophisticated design and execution, the contemporary bookplate is often simpler in concept and design than the bookplate works of the early 20th century.

The tradition of *exchanging* personal marks of pride in book ownership, also known as *ex libris* prints, has a world history that dates back to the 1890s. These prints reflect the interests of bibliophiles and art collectors, serving not only as personal signatures in books but also fostering friendships through their exchange. This unique concept highlights the universal appeal of bookplates. Our mission is to promote the talents of printmakers and bring them into the public eye through exhibitions and publications, thereby enhancing this global connection.

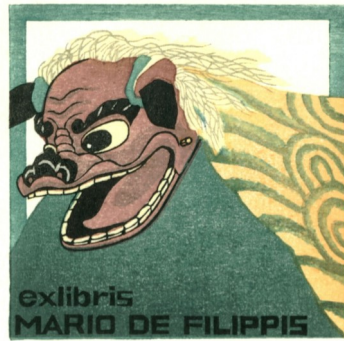
Within your collection, bookplates should be organized by country and designer, and when the designer is unknown or anonymous, alphabetically by name of owner. Many collectors separate into different categories: institutional bookplates (public libraries, clubs, societies, subscription libraries, etc.); or special types of bookplate design (bookpiles, armorials, pictorials, calligraphic, book labels, book stamps, super libri) or anything they want to treat specially.

Once you commission your first bookplate, you'll have prints to exchange! You'll need an idea that reflects your tastes and interests in literature, music, hobbies, family, and heraldry -- the subjects are limitless, and a sample list of ideas follows on the next page. ASBC&D members can access exchange lists on our website.

The ASBC&D is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, charitable organization founded in 1922 to further the art and study of bookplates. The Society is an association with subscribers worldwide and a growing membership throughout the Americas. For more than a century, the ASBC&D has built a tradition of advancing the interest in bookplate art. We accomplish this through our publications, exhibitions, conferences, and electronic media.

**Here are a few ideas for your first bookplate. See page 8 for list of FISAE Approved Technical Symbols List for your Exchanges:**

- Animals
- Architectural
- Astrological
- Astronomical
- Authors
- Botanical
- Bookbinding
- Books
- Calligraphy
- Children
- Collections
- Cooking
- Decorative
- Dental
- Dining
- Erotic
- Fantasy
- Freemasonry
- Hunting
- Heraldic
- Hobbies
- House Exterior
- House Interior
- Law
- Libraries
- Medical
- Military
- Monograms
- Musical
- Mythology
- Nautical
- Nudes
- Pets
- Photography
- Poetry
- Portraits
- Printing
- Psychiatry
- Punning
- Societies
- Surgeons
- Transportation
- Travel
- Typography
- Zoology



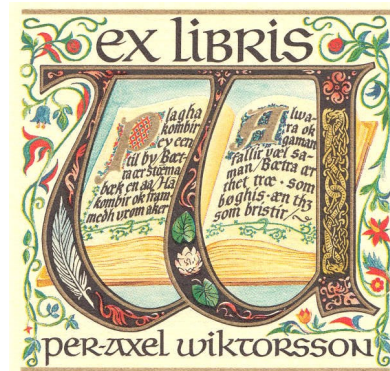
Keiko Tsurusawa, Japan, XI/4



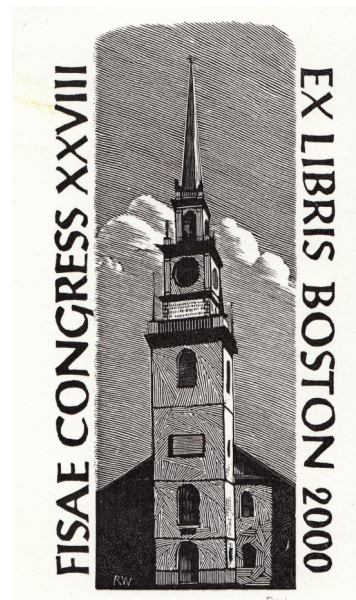
Pawel Delekta, Poland, MT



Yuri Borovitsky, Russia, C7



Heimo Virnala, Finland, P7



Richard Wagener, USA, X2



Katsunori Hamanishi, Japan, C7

*The subjects are endless...*

## Approved Technical Symbols List for Exchanges by the World Bookplate Association

(C) Intaglio	(T/Col) Typography hand-colored
(C1) Steel Engraving	(P5) Collotype
(C2) Copper Engraving	(P6) Photolithography
(C3) Etching	(P7) Offset
(C4) Drypoint	(P8) Original Photograph or Hologram
(C5) Aquatint	(P9) Serigraphic Reproduction
(C6) Soft Ground Etching	(P10) Etched Steel Printing
(C7) Mezzotint	(S) Stencil
(C8) Intaglio (other materials)	(S1) Original Serigraphy
(CAD) Computer Aided Design	(S2) Mimeography
CGD Computer Generated Design	(S3) Katazome
(CRD) Computer Reproduced Design	(S4) Kappa
(L) Lithography	(T) Typography
(L1) Autolithography	(T1) Linotype
(L2) Autography	(T2) Photoxylography
(L3) Zincography	(T3) Commercial Rubber Stamp
(L4) Algraphy	(X) Relief Printing
(MT) Mixed Technique	(X1) Woodcut
(P) Photo Reproduction	(X2) Wood Engraving
(P1) Line Block	(X3) Linocut
(P2) Half-tone	(X4) Relief Printing – metal cut
(P3) Heliogravure	(X5) Relief Printing – for intaglio
(P4) Rotogravure	(X6) Relief Printing – other materials
(E) Calligraphic	(X7) Stone Stamp
(T/2) Typography in 2-colors	(Y) Photocopy



**“What I've found does the most good is just to get into a taxi and go to Tiffany's.” Holly Golightly**



**Victoria University at Wellington, New Zealand and**

**American Society of Bookplate Collectors & Designers**

Take pleasure in announcing the *Breakfast at Tiffany's* Bookplate Competition 2024

### **The Centenary Celebration of Truman Capote (1924-2024)**

Printmakers from around the world participate in our Annual Bookplate Competitions. The year 2024 is the celebration of the centenary of Truman Capote (1924-1984). Truman Capote was an American novelist, screenwriter, playwright, and actor. Several short stories, novels, and plays are praised literary classics, including his 1958 novella *Breakfast at Tiffany's*.

The TOP 30 finalists receive global exposure through the virtual exhibition and online artist directory. The opening in-person exhibition at The Book Club of California in San Francisco will be followed by nationwide touring. In our tradition, first-, second-, and third-place artists will receive cash prizes. The top 30 finalists with multiple entries will be presented in the exhibitions. **ALL OF OUR EXHIBITIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO TOUR.** [info@bookplate.org](mailto:info@bookplate.org)

#### **“BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY’S” TOP 30 ENTRIES**

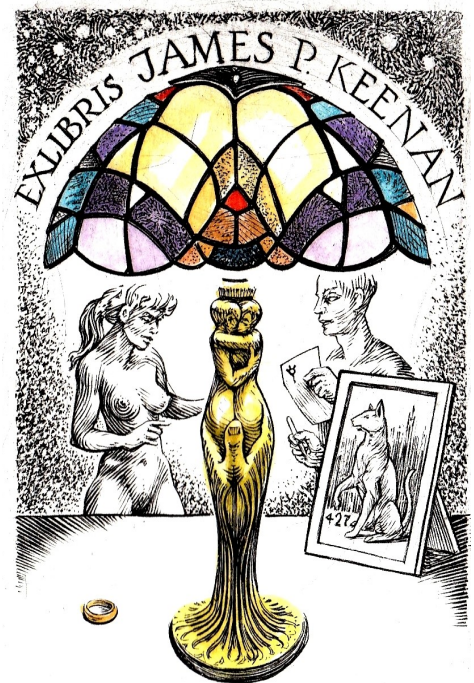
**1- Frank Ivo Van Damme - C2 - 105x77mm - Belgium** - selected by Dr Yuanyuan Liang, Truman Capote Scholar, Victoria University at Wellington, New Zealand & Beijing, China.

The Ex Libris I have selected as my top pick, first caught my eye for its well-chosen palette of colours as well as the clarity and impact of its composition. The exquisite 'blank' space left by the artist not only gives the eye a chance to appreciate the artwork without feeling overwhelmed, but it also enables the mind to 'breathe' while deciphering the multilayered, poignant messages conveyed.

Indeed, this bookplate offers a delicate plate of food for thought. For example, the stylish lamp, with the light switched on, conjures up a scene and a sense of sleeplessness; yet it also offers a note of hope for life, thus evoking of the oft-quoted line from Holly's song: "Don't wanna sleep, Don't wanna die."

Moreover, the upper part of the lamp handle, shaped like a naked couple, could refer to Holly and her Brazilian fiancé who abandons her at the end of the story – hence the lonely ring placed on the left side of the picture. The unrecognizable facial features of the 'lamp-couple' further suggest that eventually the romantic relationship is destined to fade out in memory. And the framed photo of the cat too... another layer of allusion and meaning.

In conclusion, I was very impressed by the artist's craftsmanship – how he has effectively and elegantly interwoven storylines and symbols, achieving a neat and nuanced artwork that, I believe, does justice to Truman Capote's genius for storytelling and especially for his iconic and immortal *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. A fitting centenary celebration of one of the greatest writers of our time.



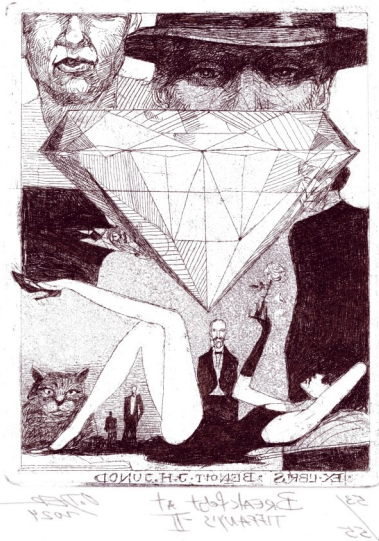
If you are interested in commissioning any of the artists, please do not hesitate to write for contact information: [info@bookplate.org](mailto:info@bookplate.org)



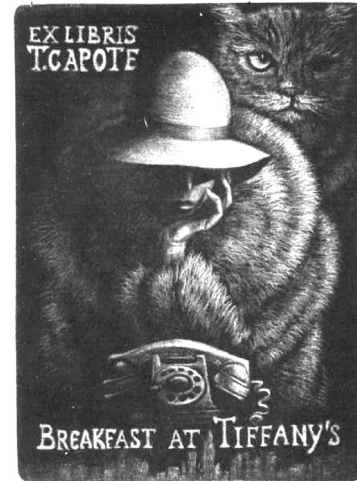
2 - L - Deborah Chapman -  
Time - C7+C2 -  
110x75mm - Canada



3 - R - Nurgül Arkan - CGD  
90x90mm - Turkey



4 - L - Oleg Dergachov -  
C3 - 150x110mm - France



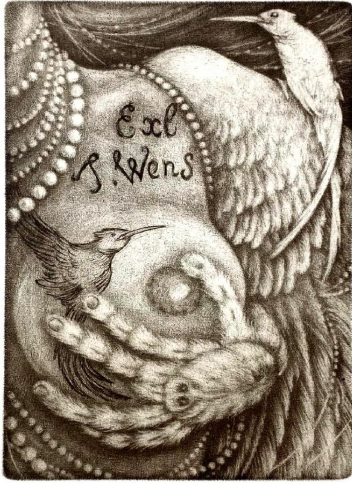
5 - R - Igor Kashinskiy -  
C7 - 99x73mm - USA



6 - L - Mauricio Schvarzman  
- X3 - 120x85mm -  
Argentina

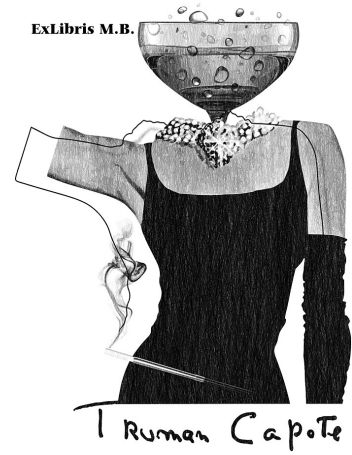
7 - R - Galina Pavlova -  
CGD - 130x130mm -  
Bulgaria





8 - L - Iurii Aleksandrov - C3 - 120x75mm - Slovakia

ExLibris M.B.

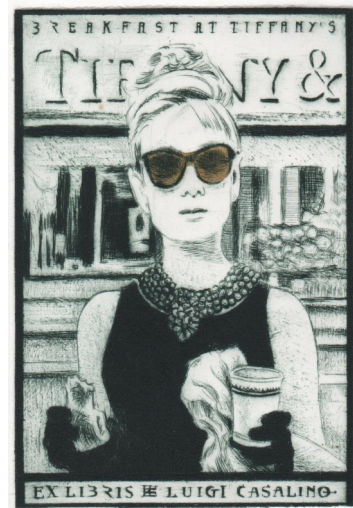


9 - R - K. M. Bak - CGD - 75x57mm - Poland

Truman Capote

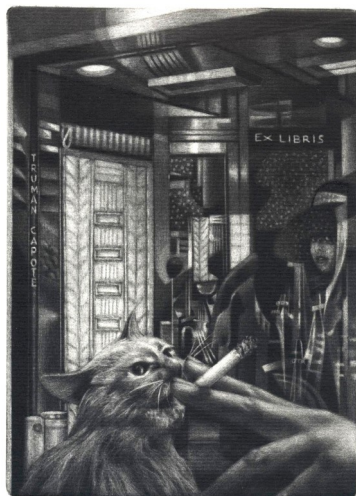


10 - L - Eleonora Gershanovych - CGD - 73x37mm - Germany



11 - R - Luigi Casalino, - C3 - 147x104mm - Italy

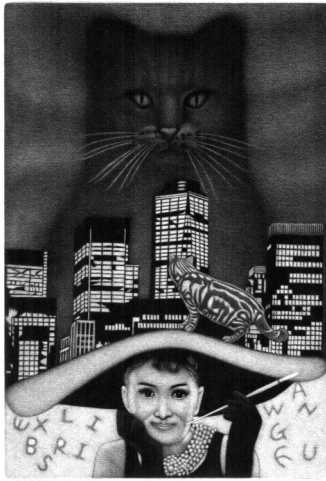
3/20 Ex Natalia Krasinskaja 2023



12 - L - Ivo Mosele - C7 - 130x100mm - Italy

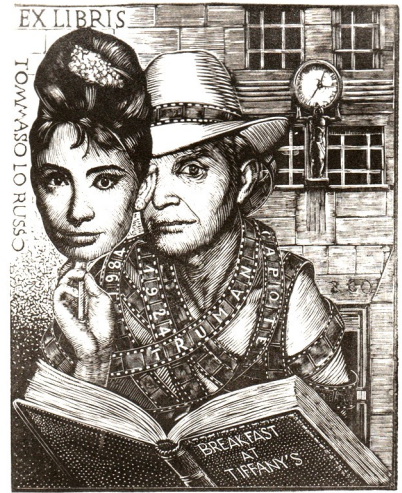


13 - R - Ruslan Agirba - C3 - 140x125mm - Ukraine



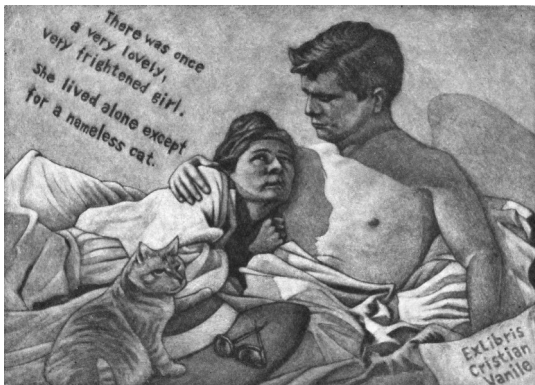
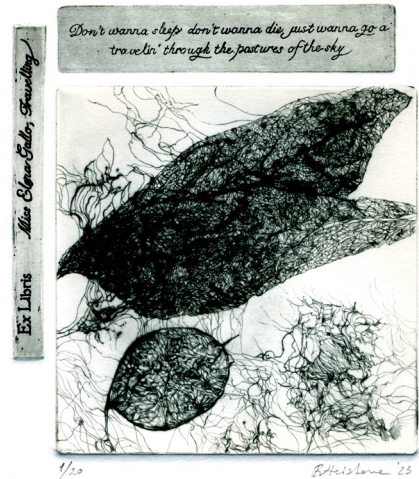
14 - L - Yu Wang - C7 -  
115x80mm - China

15 - R - Valerio Mezzetti -  
X2 - 120x98mm - Italy



16 - L - Claude Svetlana -  
X3 - 80x172mm -  
France

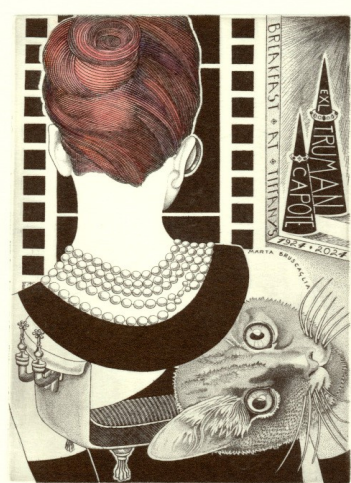
17 - R - Evgeniya Hristova -  
Miss Elena Gallo -  
Don't wanna sleep,  
Don't wanna die -  
Traveling - C3 -  
130x125mm - Italy



18 - L - Michele Stragliati -  
C7 - 122x160mm -  
Italy

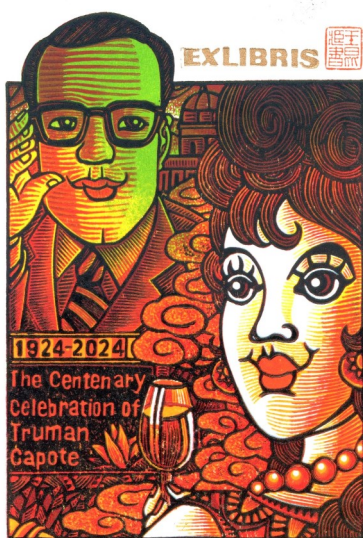
19 - R - Joan Pujol I Ros -  
CGD - 143x98mm -  
Spain





20 - L - Maria Maddelena Tuccelli - C2 - 122x80mm - Italy

21 - R - Bai Wen Lu - C3-C5 - 100x100mm - China



22 - L - Wang Kun - X3 - 230x150mm - China

23 - R - Claudia Garcia - CGD - 115x75mm - Argentina



24 - L - Gianna Alexopoulou - X1 - 150x100mm - Greece

25 - R - Oleg Omelchenko - CAD - 150x125mm - Ukraine





26 L - Nubia Ozzi - *We did belong to each other* - C8+X6 - 100x130mm - Argentina



27 - R - Altair Altaev - X3 - 140x90mm - Kazakhstan



28 - L - Ramis Aibussinov - X3 - 128x99mm - Kazakhstan



29 - R - Irene Marchello - C3 - 90x70mm - Italy



30 L - Maria Gurikhina - C3 - *Stranger* - 100x100mm - Spain

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