



**FESTIVAL INTERNAZIONALE DEL FUMETTO, ANIMAZIONE, CINEMA E GAMES**

**JAPANESE ARTIST REKI KAWAHARA GOLDEN ROMICS OF THE XXV° EDITION**

**THE AUTHOR OF *SWORD ART ONLINE* WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE FESTIVAL  
TOGETHER WITH ABEC, CELEBRATED ILLUSTRATOR OF THE SAGA**

Reki Kawahara will be one of the artists who will receive the Golden Romics of the XXV° edition of the Festival. The Japanese author of light novels and manga series, best known to the great public for *Accel World* and *Sword Art Online*, will be one of the special guests of the Festival, to be held from 4 to 7 April 2019.

Master Reki Kawahara will be flanked by Abec, special guest of this edition, celebrated illustrator of the series *Sword Art Online* for Dengeki Bunko.

The career of Kawahara started with the victory at the Dengeki Shosetsu Award thanks to the novel *Accel World* which was published in 2009 under the Dengeki Bunko imprint. Main protagonist is Haruyuki "Haru" Arita, a bullying victim that takes refuge in a virtual world thanks to a device called Neuro Linker.

Thereafter Kawahara continued to publish novels under pseudonym on his website. In April 2009 he began to publish the light novel series *Sword Art Online* always for Dengeki Bunko. *Sword Art Online* tells the story of Kazuto "Kirito" Kirigaya, a young online videoplayer who experiences in the near future the first virtual realities MMORPG.

In 2012 both his works have been adapted into anime and in October 2018 the third season of the anime version of *Sword Art Online* has started to be broadcast. From the cult series were taken until now many manga series published by Kadokawa, several videogames, two series of light novel spin-off, a very popular anime series and the film *Sword Art Online - The Movie: Ordinal Scale*.

In Italy the light novels and the mangas of *Sword Art Online* will be shortly published for J-POP Manga, both placed inside the narrative approach *Project Alicization*.

Reki Kawahara and Abec will be guests of Romics from 4 to 7 April and they will participate in a series of special events and signing copies, details of which will be announced in the coming weeks.

The presence of Reki Kawahara and Abec is organised with the cooperation of J-POP Manga.

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