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Press Release:

**“An insistence of being heard, of being alive” in *So Large an Animal*,
a book of poems by Bibiana Tomasic of New Westminster.**

So Large an Animal is a book of poems inspired by deeply personal experiences. It is a response to a kind of silence the author embraced as a child, growing up in a Communist country, where only certain things were ‘say-able.’ “It is the rebellion I might have had at sixteen, which turned into the voiced declaration of a forty-year-old woman needing to express her passion about her childhood, immigration, her partner, and her children.” says Tomasic.

She hopes the book serves as an inclusive medium for others. “In stature, we are by no means the largest animals occupying the planet. Yet I believe that all humans, in particularly women with their complex and multiple roles, have to be very large animals to carry around our history, our losses, our relationships, our desires, our frustrations and fears, and thankfully, our loves.”

As the title suggests, *So Large an Animal* is dependent on imagery of animals, of nature, of the human body. There is movement in the work, a kind of pushing forward, an insistence of being heard, of being alive.

Launch:

7:00 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 29. Museum of Vancouver Studio (adjacent to Planetarium)
1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, B.C.

About the Author:

Bibiana Tomasic was born in Croatia. She immigrated with her parents to Germany when she was nine, to Canada when she was eleven. She received her B.A. in Communications from the University of Washington, Seattle, in 1981. In 1998 she received her M.F.A. in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia. This is her first book of poetry.

Praise for the Book:

From A for Bibiana to Z for Zagreb, this book tells how Bibiana Tomasic came to be, adding sensuality to common sense, voluptuousness to vision in the one pot of poetry, carried from Croatia to a kitchen in Vancouver. These poems stir her history and current surroundings into an identity, like ‘the large blue rivers of her childhood that ran beneath the skin of her grandmother’s massive soft calves’ – tough enough to march on its old legs and stomach; new, light and witty enough to dance in the eyes and mind of the reader. *George McWhirter*

Here are poems of lament, tribute, reclamation and celebration that connect the author’s cultural roots and childhood experiences of immigration from Croatia with her life growing up and raising a family in Canada. The author skilfully weaves together richly textured poems about relationships with grandparents, parents, children and husband, depicting the intricate and multi-hued fabric of a life and a family. *Fiona Tinwei Lam*

About the Publisher:

Leaf Press is an independent press Publishing “poetry only” and located on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Other titles include: *Curving the Line (Curvando la linea)* poems by Carmen Lenero, translated by Lorna Crozier, *Obituary of Light: the Sangan River Meditations* by Susan Musgrave, *Falling Season*, by Beth Kope, and *My Nature*, by Christine Lowther.

Text and photos available at http://www.leafpress.ca/Bibiana_Tomasic/So-Large-An-Animal.htm