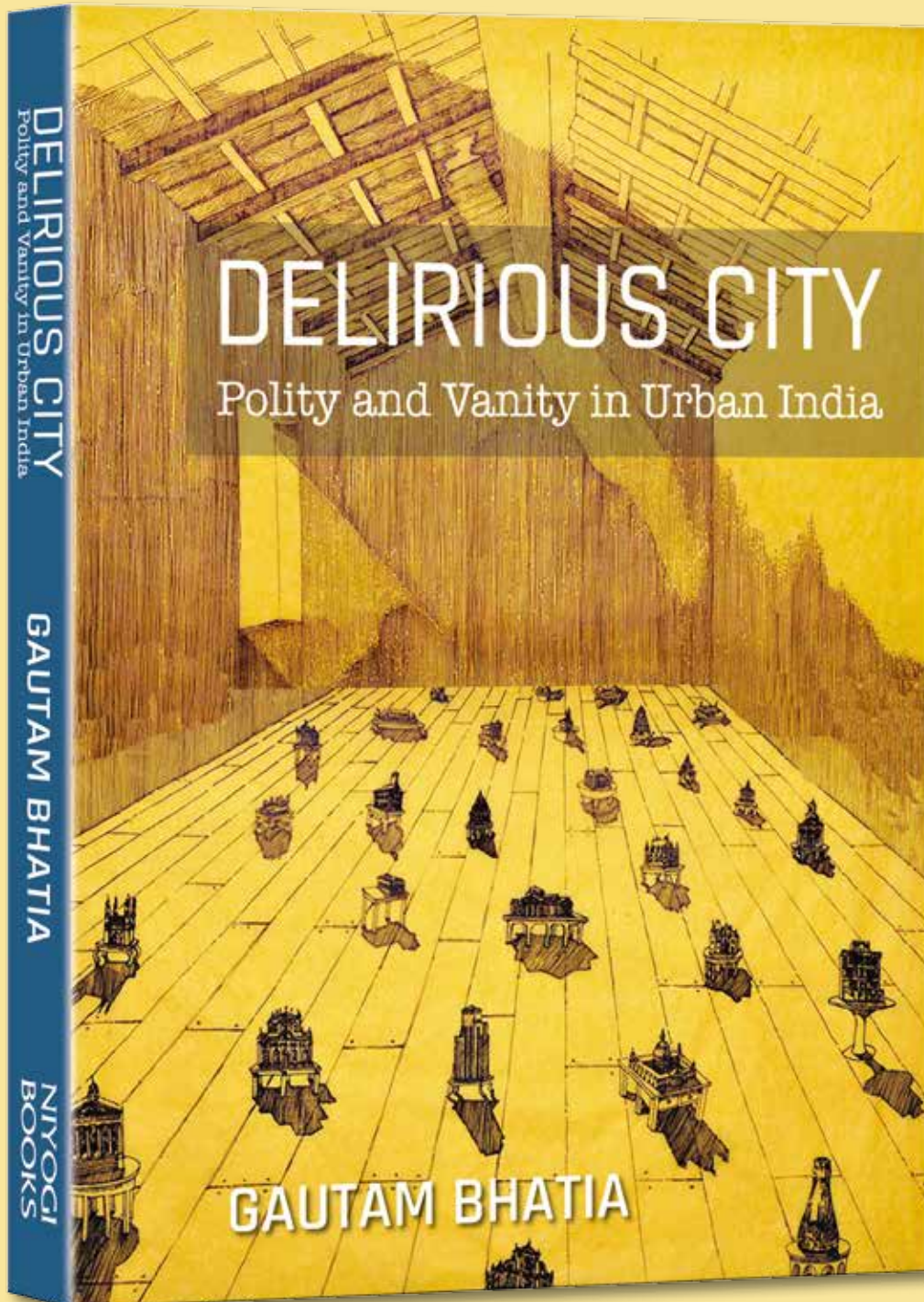


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# DELIRIOUS CITY

Polity and Vanity in Urban India

by  
Gautam Bhatia

HUMOUR/SATIRE

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& 16 photographs

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**T**his book grew out of a grainy combination of despair and delight that afflicts the residents of every Indian city. *Delirious City* is as much a collision of various mediums as it is of mixed messages, concocted out of a desperate urge to make sense of the City, its residents, their aspirations, and their perennial expectations. Its aim is to rile and provoke the reader with a disparate arc of writing, drawing, painting, sculpture, and architecture, and relieve the mood in satire.

Daily life, events, places, and personalities—houses, builders, parks, malls, bureaucrats, politicians, the rich, the poor, the labourer and the liquor baron—all are condensed as a virulent strain of muddled voices that describe our civic reality. Bitter tragedy, urban despair, and personal desire emerge in daily urban encounters and manifest a euphoric edge, often yielding to subversive comedy.

The discourse begins then by describing urban life as it exists, proceeds down the path of memory to state something of how it used to be, and finally addresses the hope of a different future—of how we may begin to view the places we make with optimism and hope.

Sometimes architectural, sometimes cultural—but frequently facetious and farcical—*Delirious City* imitates life in the Indian city.

*Delirious City is an extraordinary opus that establishes a new literary and artistic genre altogether. It encapsulates the diverse attributes of its author, the multi-faceted Gautam Bhatia, who is the prolific proponent of many disciplines.... A must for every bookshelf, this tome is provocative, hilarious and sometimes chilling, a wondrous tour de force that can be perused again and again—and yet again.*

**ANJOLIE ELA MENON**

*Eminent Artist and Muralist; Padma Shree Awardee*



**Gautam Bhatia**, a Delhi-based architect and artist, has written extensively on architecture, and has received several awards for his artwork and buildings. Apart from the biography *Laurie Baker: Life, Work, and Writings* and various other publications, he is the author of *Punjabi Baroque*, *Silent Spaces*, and *Malaria Dreams*—a trilogy that focuses on the cultural and social aspects of architecture. Bhatia has participated in a number of one-man and group shows and exhibitions in India and abroad, and his columns have appeared in *Outlook* magazine, *Indian Express*, and the *New York Times*.

