



From top:
One Of These Days; How Many Men. Inset:
Yamini Nayar

interiors and objects, which become my starting points.”

ART

THE BREAK-UP

Four words to drop at **YAMINI NAYAR**'s first solo show in India

DREAMY

An eye peeks out of a square, feathers are suspended mid-air and fruit is placed where you'd least expect it. These elements add an unreal quality.

DISARRAY

Undone floorboards, broken walls—rooms that look like they've survived a tsunami are characteristic of Nayar's work. It's strangely comforting. —*Aarthi Gunnupuri*
The show opens at the Amrita Jhaveri Project, Mumbai on March 28

To create her works, Yamini Nayar first builds small-scale architectural spaces on tabletops, then throws them away. All that remain of the rooms assembled so painstakingly, are

photographs. Here are descriptions we'll all be turning to at her new show.

DRAMA

Nayar recreates and highlights the drama of the everyday with

light, shadow and seemingly random objects like scraps of coloured paper, painted wood chips and beads. “These spaces are built solely for the camera, so there is an element

of performance,” Nayar says.

DESIGN

It's Nayar's inspiration and preoccupation: “I am obsessed with images of modernist structures,

BOOKS

Forever marks

KATHERINE BOO's new book will make you rethink everything you knew about Mumbai, says **RACHEL LOPEZ**

Pulitzer Prize-winner Katherine Boo's book *Behind The Beautiful Forevers* follows the real lives of the real people of Annawadi, a

slum just off Mumbai's international airport. It's being lauded by critics worldwide. Indians, however, may find it harder to love.

What made you want to write about Mumbai?

People in Annawadi know the air is toxic, but they're not sitting around saying, “What a terrible environment I live in.” They're thinking about how to get out of it, to make a better life for their children. What interested me was that infrastructure of opportunity.

Being this close to your characters can't be easy. How do you sleep at night?

I don't. I stress. It's absolutely tormenting psychologically. The only thing that was worse than doing this book was not doing it. I can't help everyone, but I can make sure I've done my best to document their lives. *Hamish Hamilton, ₹499*

