Arvind Krishna Mehrotra was born in Lahore in 1947 and grew up in Allahabad and Bhilai. While a student at the University of Allahabad he, along with two friends, started damn you / a magazine of the arts. Later, in Bombay, he edited ezra and brought out mimeographed pamphlets from the ezra-fakir press, one of them, in 1966, his own Howl-inspired poem bharatmata: a prayer. Along with Adil Jussawalla, Arun Kolatkar, Gieve Patel, and Eunice de Souza, he has come to be known as one of the so-called Bombay Poets. The author of six collections of poems, he is the editor, among other books, of The Oxford India Anthology of Twelve Modern Indian Poets (OUP), A History of Indian Literature in English (Columbia University Press), and Collected Poems in English by Arun Kolatkar (Bloodaxe), and the translator of The Absent Traveller: Prakrit Love Poetry (Penguin Classics), Songs of Kabir (NYRB Classics), and (with Sara Rai) Blue Is Like Blue, the stories of Vinod Kumar Shukla (HarperCollins). His two volumes of essays are Partial Recall: Essays on Literature and Literary History and Translating the Indian Past, both published by Permanent Black. His new book Selected Poems and Translations is out in NYRB Poets in November. He taught for many years at the University of Allahabad and lives in Dehra Dun.

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