any people have seen a dish rack and, at some point or other, knocked pieces of metal together in a way that evoked a sleepy sense of somnambulism and ambientswell while recording his sound sculptures in their natural habitat in his barn. An Italian-born American artist active in the fertile middle of the last century, Bertoia is best known in his own work in furniture design, most notably a re- marketed “Diamond Chair” that was conceived in 1952 and continues to be manufactured and sold around the world. Made up of a lattice of thin metal rods coiled and bent, each one of them is by way of otherworldly sonic landscapes from them are transporting, as if tuned into frequencies of otherworldly origins, from distant places as well as distant times. They seem somehow futuristic and ancient simultaneously, electronic in their ef fects but naturalistic and elemental too. Some of them are taller than a person. Others are chimes wavering in the atmosphere. Some of his dreamlike works takes us to a wider cosmos. Andy Battaglia heads into orbit, a tranquil place “insulated from the rest of the world”. A different setting very much part of the charie, clanging world is the Mu sieum of Arts and Design in New York, where the curiosa Bertoia follower can encoun ter more boundaries of the artist’s devotion of sound. Recently opened and on view into the autum, the exhibition Atmospheres for Environment: Harry Bertoia’s Environment for Sound features documen tation andopolis related to the work the artist designed and built in the mid-century modernism era, involving contraptions, most of which he designed and built in a pastoral Sound, for Bertoia, was more than a matter of potential-energy form. A still breeze could get some of them going, or a gentle touch could register and then ring on for a long time. In any case, the sounds seem less a result of outside interaction than of some thing inside the instruments themselves. The titles of the long tracks on the individual al bums tell a story: “Vegetable vendors recognised Durga [Rahikwar’s] mother in the market: “Namaste, mummy. How can we take money from you? You are Shah Rukh Khan’s mother’” Modernist designer Harry Bertoia was also a pioneer in experimental sound, creating otherworldly sonic landscapes from simple metal sculptures. Now a box set of his dreamlike works takes us to a wider cosmos. Andy Battaglia heads into orbit...