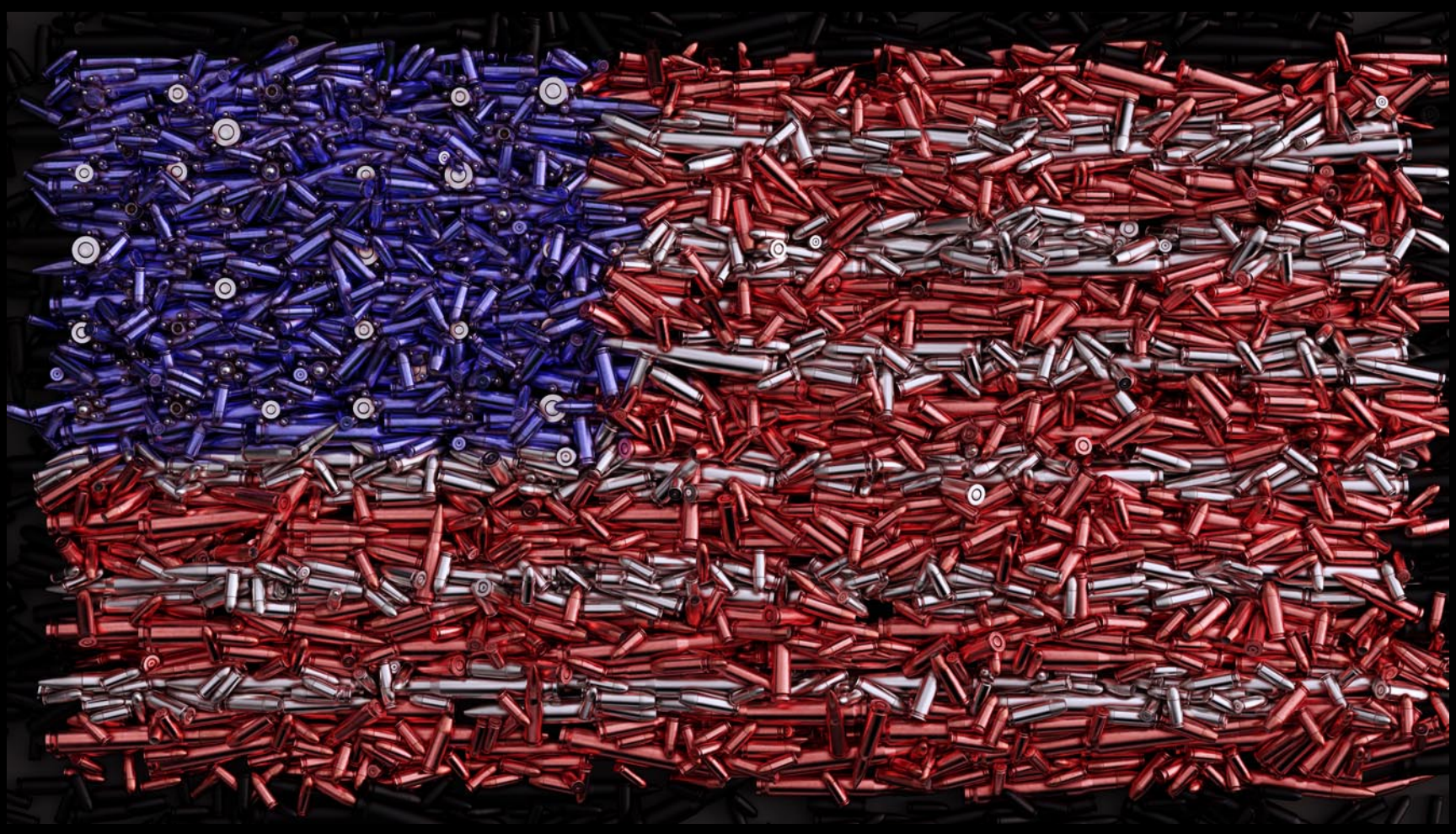

Clocked In Still Starving

My money being
The nonviolent part of rage
A kind of courtesy worship
Or caste-system blues

Bullet casings in the comb
I learned their language immediately
I watched an animal explode into hundreds of flags

Judging by my wounds
The government has counted me in

Face to face
With a police officer's family history
My anecdote is only just beginning

Tongo Eisen-Martin

Originally from San Francisco, Tongo Eisen-Martin is a poet, movement worker, and educator. His latest curriculum on extrajudicial killing of Black people, We Charge Genocide Again, has been used as an educational and organizing tool throughout the country. His book titled, "Someone's Dead Already" was nominated for a California Book Award. His latest book "Heaven Is All Goodbyes" was published by the City Lights Pocket Poets series, was shortlisted for the Griffins Poetry Prize and won a California Book Award and an American Book Award. His forthcoming book "Blood On The Fog" is being released this fall in the City Lights Pocket Poets series. He is San Francisco's eighth poet laureate.