

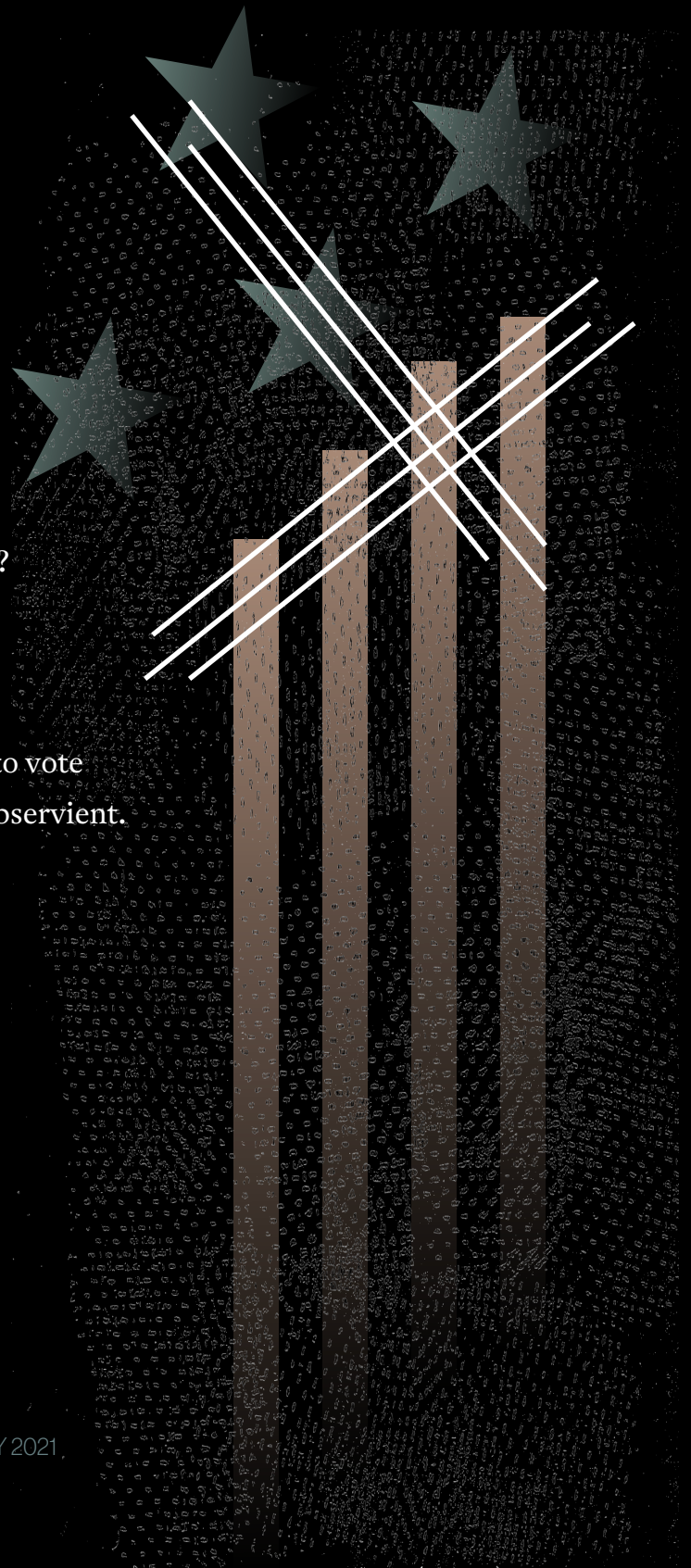
Lamentation of the American Dream

Michael Cullen

Watch your tv, eat carcinogenic fast food
Work in the office with aircon and coffee
Enjoy the illusion that they imbue
Into society that tells us we're free.
The 'comforts' provided to keep us docile
Afforded to us by circumstance of birth
Passive consumers keep up with the style
Who gives a fuck if we're destroying the earth?

Democracy keeps the façade afloat
But who do politicians really represent?
If it changed anything they wouldn't allow us to vote
The media promotes the agenda to keep us subservient.
Taught how to do but not how to think,
Whitewashed history drilled in to the youth
The past is the past there is no link
Lies have become a universal truth.

A generation enslaved but not in chains
Enslaved to a market, an insidious ideology.
Enslaved by a wage, always chasing gains,
Do we truly believe we're free?
Nature has been commodified,



Our dreams and hopes washed on the tide,
Is it for the flag or the dollar that soldiers died?
And all the while the suits lied and lied.

Opulent glistening palaces of gold adorned the city's landscape,
Sky meeting towers of fluorescent glass windows watch the sheep race
But from the pot pandlers and sleeping bags beneath there is no escape
And the people pass by, head in the sky, rushing always, can't look them in the face.
Judged on our clothes, cars, house, and our phone
Always chasing that elusive fulfilment
But with every new acquisition they begin to own
A piece of us, and not just money, but more time spent.

Dreams sold out for comforts and immediate pleasures,
A world of feigned smiles, soul destroyed forlorn 8am bus stop dwellers,
All bought into the dream of chasing false treasures
Beguiled and manipulated by TV fortune tellers.
'Fake news' has become the new truth
Information has never been more available yet never so ignored,
Money is the branch and greed is the route
And the earth's wealth and resources—the 1% hoard.

The disparity between rich and poor grows,
Prejudices played on to keep us disconnected
They don't care of the common man's woes
Their apathy is an attitude to be expected.
For if the system works for the few, the few who have the power,
Why should we expect change to come from there?
When the time comes we shall not cower
The world can change but first to do, we must care.

