



## Patriot acts: Ben Tumbull's military collages - in pictures

By cutting up comic-books into tiny fragments and reassembling them, Ben Tumbull builds fiendishly complex visions of war and American culture

Monday 10 April 2017 07:00 BST

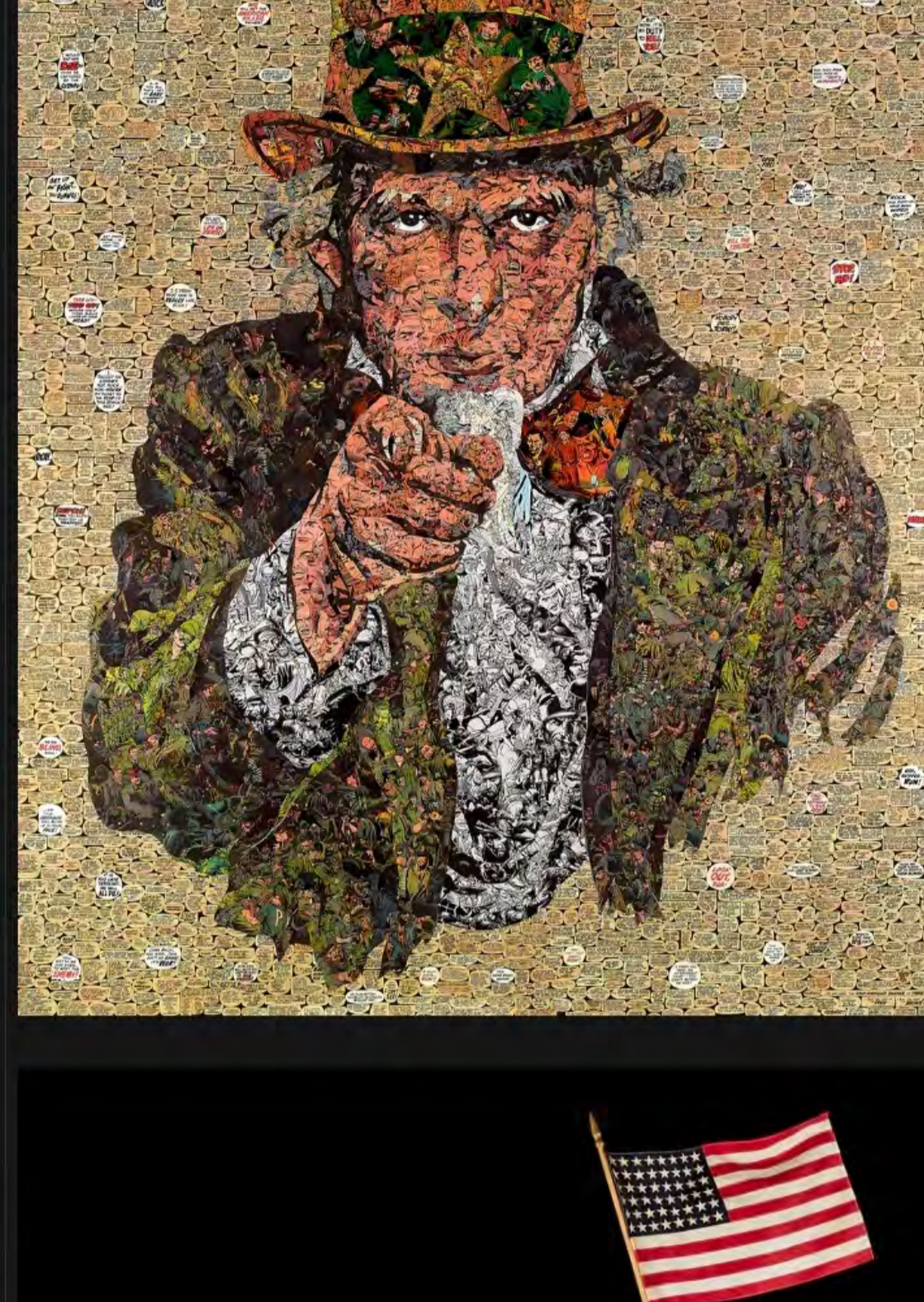
**No Guts No Glory No.1, 2016**  
 In Ben Tumbull's epic collages, war scenes are cut up and reassembled to create loaded images of patriotism and martial masculinity. He talks to *The Guardian* by the Saatchi Gallery, London, 11 April. [View all images](#) by Ben Tumbull.



**Twilights Last Gleaming, 2016**  
 Born in London in 1974, Tumbull tends to make work that focuses on American culture, from his fascination with guns to his idolisation of John F Kennedy.



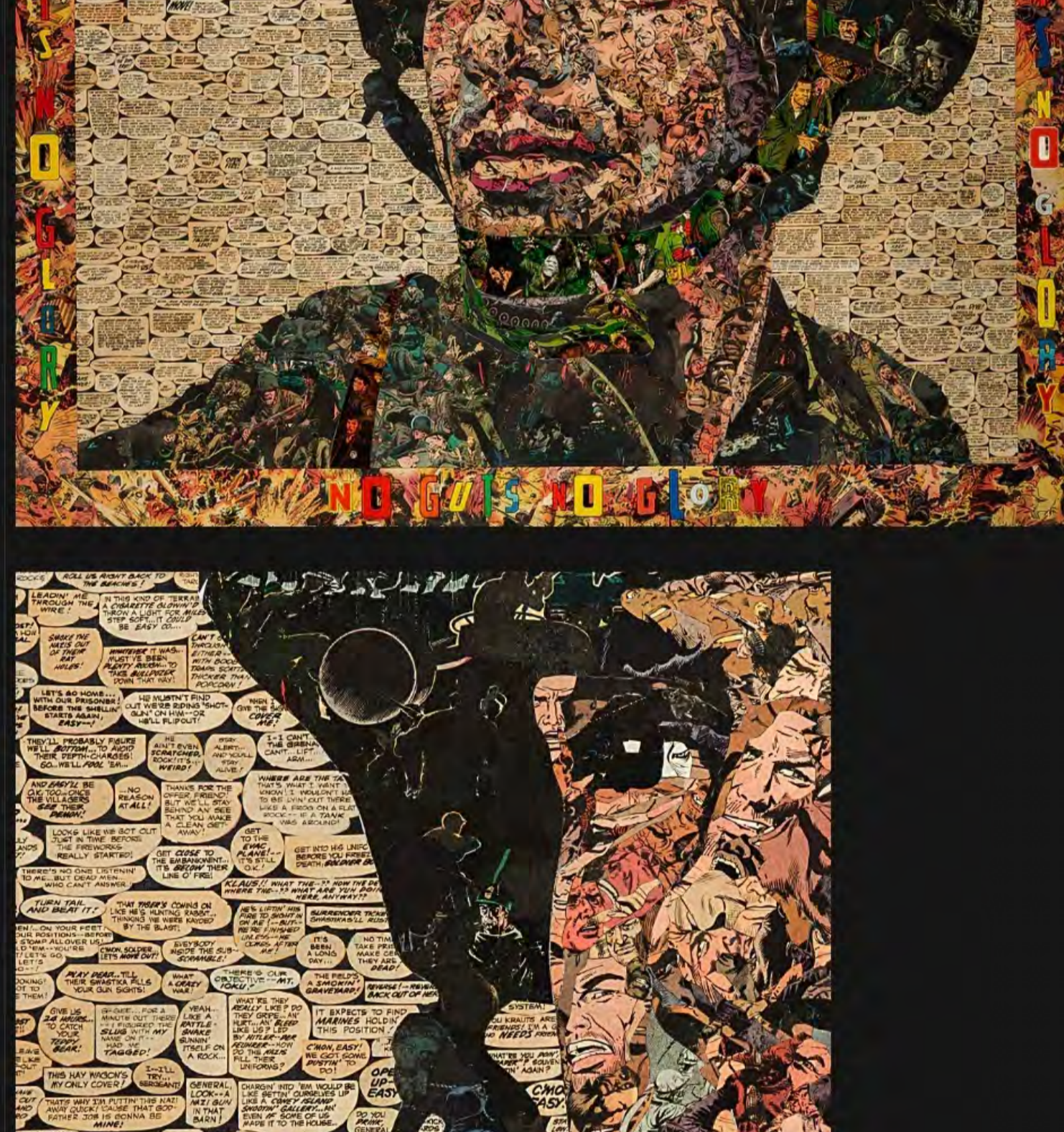
**I Need a Hero, 2016**  
 Following on from his earlier series of portraits of politicians and American heroes, built from tiny cut-out fragments of comic books, Tumbull's latest work evokes America's military.



**Gung Ho, (comic collage on wood, vintage flag), 2017**  
 Propaganda meets patriotism in this original series of montage work. He writes: 'Crafted and cut from vintage US materials, the work honours the men and women who fight and the beliefs that influence us to do so.'



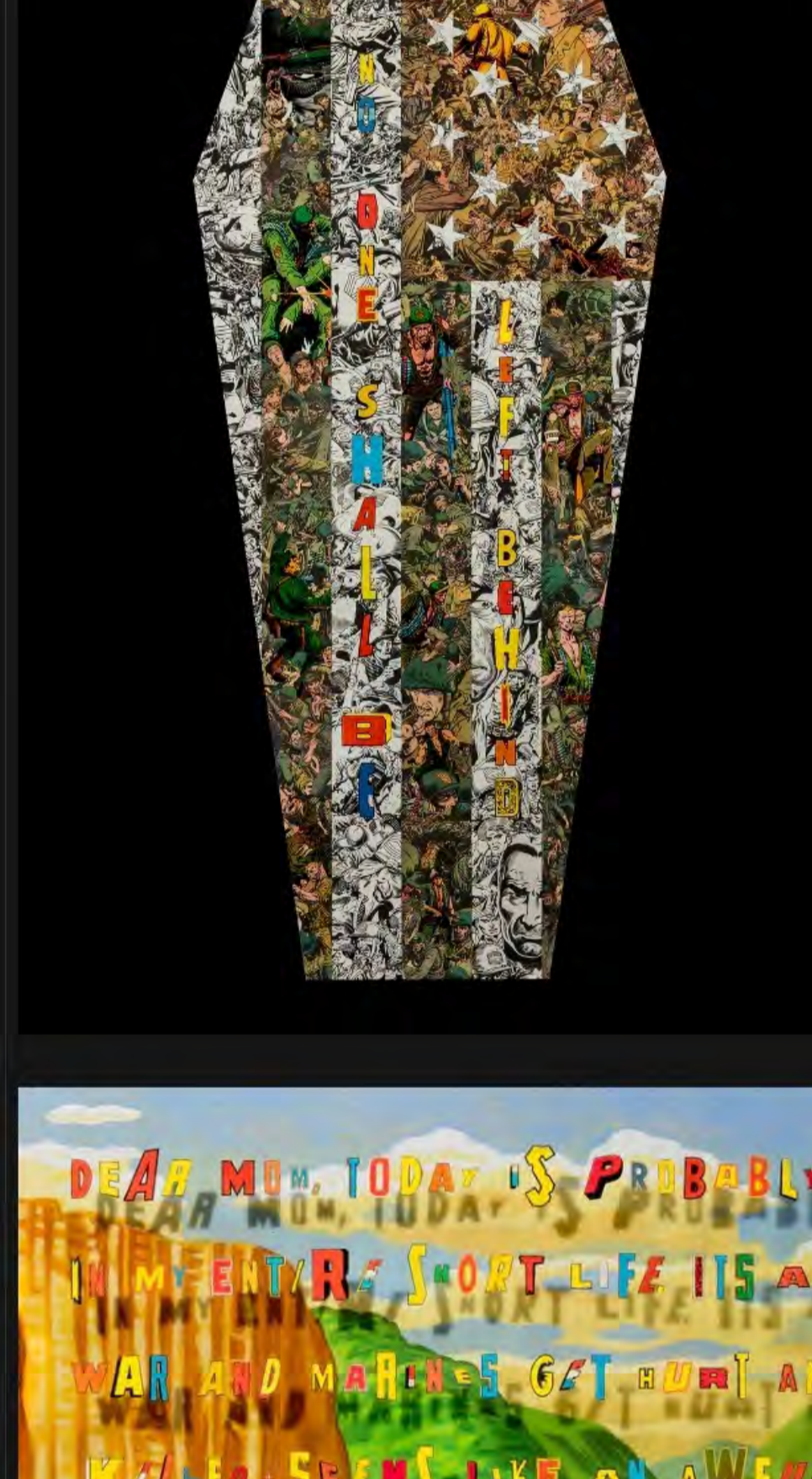
**No Guts No Glory No.3, 2016**  
 Inspired by the recruitment posters of James Montgomery Flagg and echoing true stories from Arlington, there's a sense of a general sense memorial to the lives given for the ultimate sacrifice.



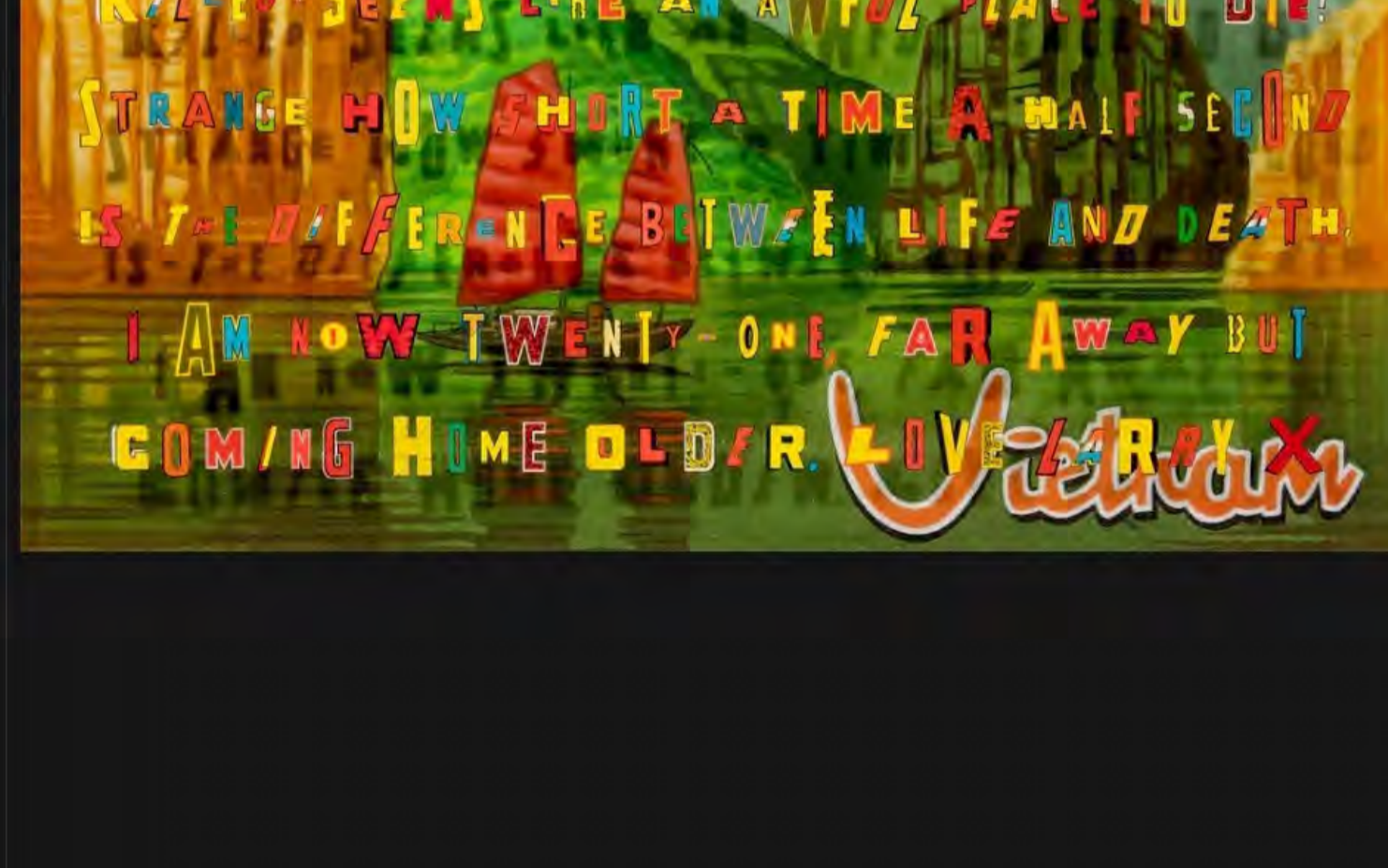
**No Guts No Glory No.3, 2016 (detail)**  
 The startled dialogue and grizzled faces of adventure comics are distilled and printed into the portraits, which vibrate with violence and tension.



**The Homecoming (No One Shall Be Left Behind), 2016**  
 His early work was selected for Barack's Christmas pop-up shop in 2006, and has since been bought by the likes of Harry Styles.



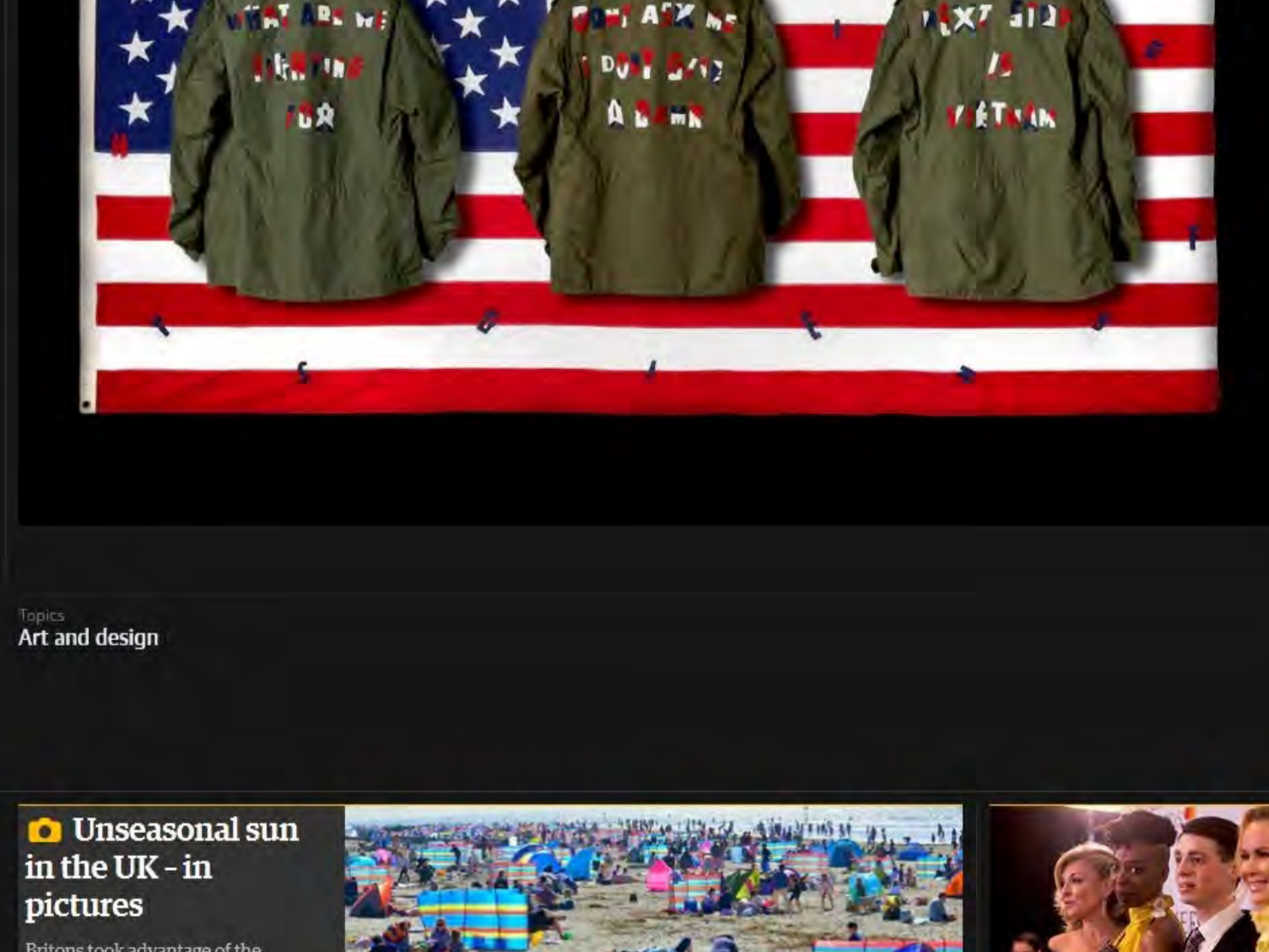
**Postcards From the Edge No.1, (comic collage on glass, mixed media), 2016**  
 'I'm violent in my head due to unfortunate events in my life, but I'm fortunate enough that I have an outlet in my work to get rid of it all,' he told *the Guardian* in 2013.



**No Guts No Glory No.2, 2016**  
 He also produces sculpture - his 2006 exhibition, *I Don't Like Mondays*, featured guns on walls in school desks, evoking the spectre of US high school shootings.



**The Return of the Living Dead (memorial flag, vintage M-65 surplus jacket), 2016**  
 'We live in fear and fear is control,' he said in 2011. 'It's really interesting how the world - or society - is now controlled by fear. There seems to be a general sense of mistrust. They said that the blitz brought people together, and say 9/11 has separated people from one another. The terrorist on the Good Friday bombings' black and white, there is no in-between left.'



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