

# J E F F   C R A N D A L L

## A R T I S T ' S   S T A T E M E N T

### DARK VICTORY

This work is based on Naomi Wolf's article, "Fascist America, in 10 Easy Steps" which appeared in April 24, 2007 issue of *The Guardian*. Her article outlines the steps required for any regime to establish a fascist state — such as Nazi Germany, Mussolini's Italy, Thailand's military coup in 2006, and now: the USA. The Bush Administration has taken all 10 of these steps, routing fundamental rights set up by the founders of the U.S. Constitution, undermining privacy, generating fear and misinformation, creating secret prisons where torture takes place, and suspending the rule of law. BUT NO ONE IS TALKING ABOUT THIS.

10 champagne magnums sporting the Presidential Seal proclaim each victorious step. The magnums are empty however, empty as this victory over terrorism which has somehow turned on the American people themselves. Only one glass is present to drink from, representing one president, one party, one law, one way of thinking with no tolerance for dissent. Is this not unAmerican?

In all my years as a professional artist, this is by far the most frightening work I have ever created. There is no fiction here. My goal in making this sculpture is to build on Naomi Wolf's article and generate *more* talk about the erosion and destruction of democracy in this country, and how to reclaim the liberty we are promised.