

## **Republican Cuff-Links**

2006. Acrylic on canvas, 22 x 28

The Republicans have provided a new adjective to add to the lexicon of criminal procedure – Republican cuff-links.

When the Republicans do crime, they do it big time. They love money so much, that they have to turn to illegal ways to get more of it. And of course, like many criminals, the first thing out of a Republican's mouth is, "I didn't do it." Then the evidence piles up so high, that one Republican Congressman broke a record with his federal prison sentence. Perhaps that was appropriate for a guy who called himself, "Duke" (maybe he suffered from a John Wayne syndrome). The Duke was so confident in his illegal business, that he created a menu of what he would sell, and how much it cost to receive his access.

Other Republicans were so greedy for money, that they cheated their own clients, Native American tribes, and then wrote racist e-mails about ripping off the clients. Not only were these stupid Republicans, but they were not even good businessmen. Real, professional businessmen develop and nurture a relationship with clients. Going back to the office and writing adolescent, bigoted e-mails are the actions of racist hoodlums, thugs, and low-life political operatives.

And if the Republicans couldn't get enough money cheating Native Americans, they turned to textile companies in the Pacific Mariana Islands, golfing trips to Scotland (sponsored by Native American tribes), Margaret Thatcher, a London law firm, Russian businessmen, Russian energy companies, the West African country of Gabon, shady land deals for congressional districts, wives on office payrolls, wives and family members on the payroll of lobbying firms. When they were literally hungry, Republicans would eat for free at a lobbyist's restaurant, all they had to do was leave their signature. They also had ways to rip-off Christian groups who were against gambling, so Republicans in turn, could support other clients' gambling interests.

Republicans even received support from members of the CIA who had lobbyist friends, who knew Congressmen, who could get friends to do favors, to

hold parties, to provide transportation and prostitutes, and free plane trips. It was all just an extension of the logistical supply chain – political procurement.

And finally, as all the corruption continues to unwind and more Republicans turn up wearing a pair of cuff-links, the man who was the greatest and most recognized face of Republican fraud and corruption, as well as Republican business fundraising and support, so close to President Bush that the President called him “Kenny Boy”, died on July 5, 2006 – escaping the punishing sentence that he was to receive for his crimes. Ken Lay continued the lies and denial all the way to the end; not only did he claim that he didn’t do it, he also claimed that he was in debt from all the legal fees, yet he died at a “vacation home” in Aspen, Colorado.