

# The Stripper & the Con Man

When Diane Passage met financier Ken Starr, love wasn't the only thing in the air. By Jessica Pressler p.44

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+ The Basquiat in the Bodega p.71 / **Judith Miller: Baghdad to B'way** p.26

Leitch on  
**JOE  
GIRARDI'S  
YANKEES**  
p.28

SEPTEMBER 26, 2011

# NEW YORK



## “THE FIRST JEWISH PRESIDENT”

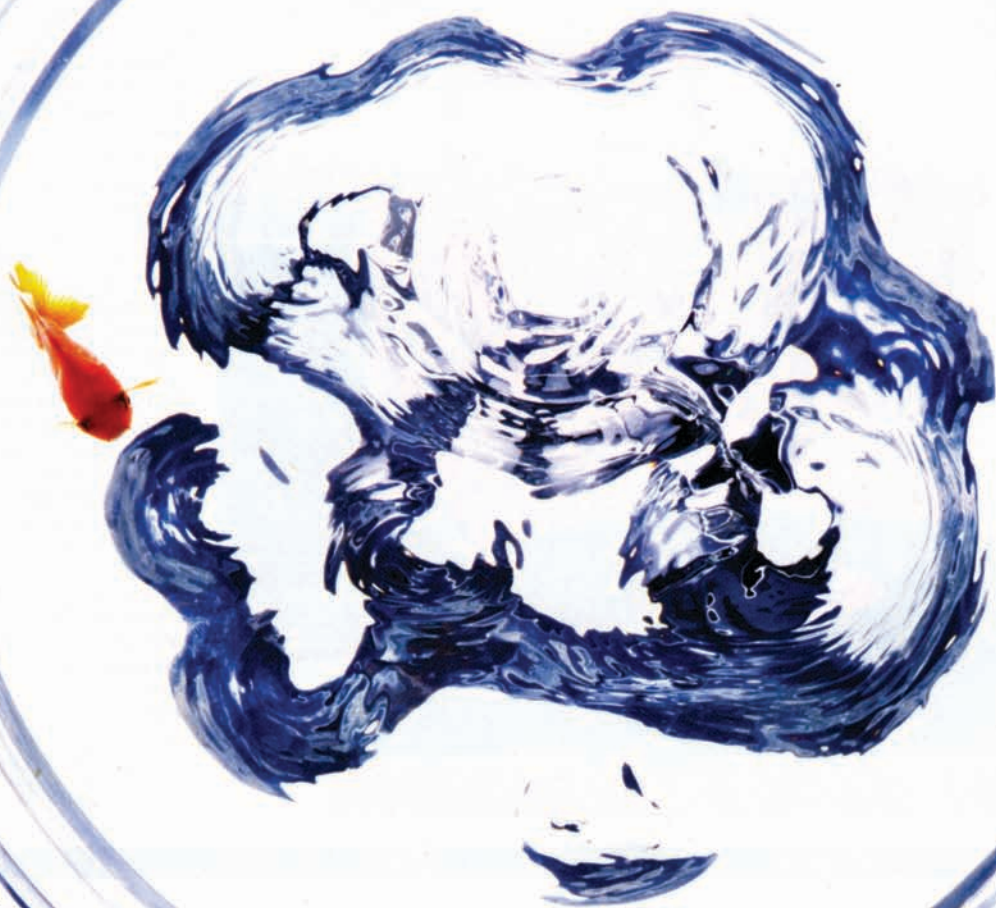
The truth?  
Barack Obama is the best friend Israel  
has right now.

By John Heilemann



# STRATEGIST

ONE BOOKWORM'S DREAM LOFT . . . . . LOOK BOOK: THE LEISURE-LOVING PROFESSOR . . . . . A WEEK'S WORTH OF BARGAINS  
. . . . . THE FALAFEL LANDSCAPE . . . . . LABESS . . . . . IN SEASON: GRAPE TOMATOES



THE  
BEST  
BET

THIS IS NOT YOUR TYPICAL pebble-carpeted Mott Street-aquarium-store fishbowl. It's more of an aesthete's aquatic habitat, one worthy of both a beloved finned pet and a carefully calibrated living room. Designed by the Flatiron-based firm Aruliden and dubbed the Fishscape (\$140 at the Conran Shop, 888 Broadway, at 19th St.; 212-755-9079), the two-and-a-half-gallon bowl rises up tectonically in the middle to form an interior mountain range. Goldie may not be impressed by the sensual swoop of molded glass, but his owners should be.