

## **Chelsea Cates**

551 Prospect Place, Apt. 202  
Brooklyn, NY 11238  
410.708.0543  
cates.chelsea@gmail.com  
www.chelseacates.carbonmade.com

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### **Artist Statement**

From a distance, the pattern on the floor looks like a repeating Arabic geometric design in vibrant shades of red, combined with blue and white rosettes. When examined closely, however, it becomes clear that the pattern is built from a succession of images. The exposed remains of a head blown apart form the core design, while the rosettes are built from blue and white tomahawk missiles.

As I thought about the war in Iraq, it seemed as if the conflict wasn't much more than a peripheral concern for many Americans, and so the idea of making images of war into decorative wallpaper or flooring, seemed appropriate. It is possible for the viewer to pass the design and register it as aesthetically pleasing yet innocuous if they do not move close enough to see the embedded images.

Eventually, everything becomes wallpaper – mundane and occasionally seductive, but free of any real content. That which is newsworthy is distilled into short, digestible sound bites while scandalous events or celebrity-infused gossip take center stage. This phenomenon is frustrating yet understandable. In the current political environment, sometimes you have to embrace distraction in order to remain sane.