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In the Galleries: A Photojournalist's Journey

By Mark Jenkins, June 12

Rush Baker

It's easy to see the mixed-media paintings in Rush Baker's "Under Pressure" as edifices of a sort. One ingredient is ceramic tile adhesive, sometimes arrayed in grids that suggest partially erected walls. But do the layered pictures at Honfleur Gallery represent building or deconstruction? Baker writes that his inspirations include urban decay and "the spectacle of war." Perhaps such turmoil is visualized in "Untitled (Pressure Study)," whose cloud-like shapes in pink and gray evoke fire and battle. Working with acrylic, spray paint, resin and various building materials, Baker contrasts purpose and chaos, accomplishment and surrender. Yet most of the Maryland artist's work seems not so much fierce as simply haunted.