

# The Washington Post

## In the galleries

By Mark Jenkins March 31 at 1:37 PM



Michael Platt's "Sunset Mobile Homes," 2017, pigment print on canvas, on view at Honfleur Gallery. (Michael Platt/Honfleur Gallery)

### Michael Platt

White markings on brown bodies are central to Michael Platt's photo-based, ritual-inspired prints. But the pieces in "Pathfinders," the D.C. artist's show at Honfleur Gallery, superimpose various found patterns in addition to the chalky body paint. Fabric, brick, wood and vegetation overlay Platt's female nudes and sometimes appear to merge with their faces and bodies. In these earth-toned pictures, the fusion suggests rootedness.

The photo collages are mostly printed on canvas, adding another texture to the layered look. A few are on banners of cotton or shimmery polyester, draped or freely hanging. "Jute Dancers" arrays the same figure on three overlapping, translucent panels, so the impressions can be seen as a trio or as multiple aspects of a single person.

A statement by Platt and his wife, poet Carol A. Beane, hails "those who take the first steps on a path/ that others may walk it." Yet the artist's work rarely simulates motion. Aside from those swaying dancers, Platt's seekers seem to be in a place of stillness and contemplation.

**Michael Platt: Pathfinders** On view through April 9 at Honfleur Gallery, 1241 Good Hope Rd. SE. 202-365-8392. [honfleurgallery.com](http://honfleurgallery.com).