



Tres Taylor and his wife and partner, Helene, roll up his paintings, on 60-foot lengths of tarpaper, outside the studio in Avondale. You can see them in color at www.trestaylor.com.

A canvas for life

By **LINDA STELTER** ♦ *News staff photographer*

Painting is just playing with color, artist Tres Taylor says. "I tell people who want to paint: Go watch children."

As he speaks, he uses his bare hand, covered in green, to paint over a monk's golden robe. His canvas is tarpaper and his paint usually comes in one of 60 specially mixed quarts of housepaint from Lowe's that he'll order one day

and pick up the next.

He plugs in a router, hunching over and carving away intently as paint flies, revealing thin lines of black. "A router, that's basically my pencil, that's what I draw with."

From his headphones, U2's "In God's Country" is playing over and over. He says he listens to only one song at a time while working

on a painting, trying to infuse the spirituality from one to the other.

A biochemist for 20 years, Trey found it difficult "to feel the joy of being alive" in his job. "Art is about the inner world and the heart conveys," he says. "I'm interested in the mystery of being alive."



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