

# Work to be displayed at First Friday Art Walk

Continued from Page 1D

understand what the deepest aspects of love are, then you will have the peace and the joy that come with that no matter where you're at."

Before he began painting, Taylor said, it was as if he had cataracts.

"I couldn't see the joy so much anymore," said Taylor, who described himself as a Christian Buddhist. "I felt really disconnected. And the painting brought me back."

When he paints, he noted in an artistic statement several years ago, it's "as if I were a conduit for some power, some Angelic presence who uses my hands for the purpose of showing to the world the beauty of God."

"I just really feel like it's been a gift, and it came very late in life, but it came," said Taylor, 49.

That's not to say that each moment since he began painting about eight years ago has been transcendent. Sometimes, there's a struggle for inspiration. Other times, he said he's challenged to bring the love, peace and joy about which he paints into his daily life.

In 2002, about two years after he gave up his work as a researcher, Taylor said he was stuck. He couldn't paint, he said, and wondered if he was the subject of some kind of cosmic joke.

After expressing his fears, a fellow artist suggested that Taylor take a walk in the woods. "Maybe," his colleague suggested, "God will give you something for your art."

The next day, Taylor said he walked up a small mountain behind his studio in Goshogawara, Japan, and prayed for a sign. The

**"When you truly understand what the deepest aspects of love are, then you will have the peace and the joy that come with that no matter where you're at."**

*Tres Taylor*

breeze picked up, and excited, he said, he began running. Then he slowed, and as he noticed a feather on the trail, he sighted a hawk through a hole in the tree canopy.

For Taylor, something about the moment — he's still not sure what — was so powerful it brought him to his knees and then moved him to dance, accompanied all the while by the hawk.

When he returned to his studio, Taylor said he was so inspired, paint seemed to pour from his fingertips. For the next 30 days or so, the hawk continued to visit him, coming when he whistled.

But once he hung the work for his show, which he called "Love Letters from God," he never saw the bird again.

The hawk isn't the only animal that's helped Taylor.

One day last summer, he recalled recently, he was trying to paint and was "kind of being a bit of a bear to be around." After his family left him to paint at Sweet Apple, the family's retreat in Mentone, Ala., Taylor said he noticed his dog, Mabel, had picked up "Music of Silence," a tome that,

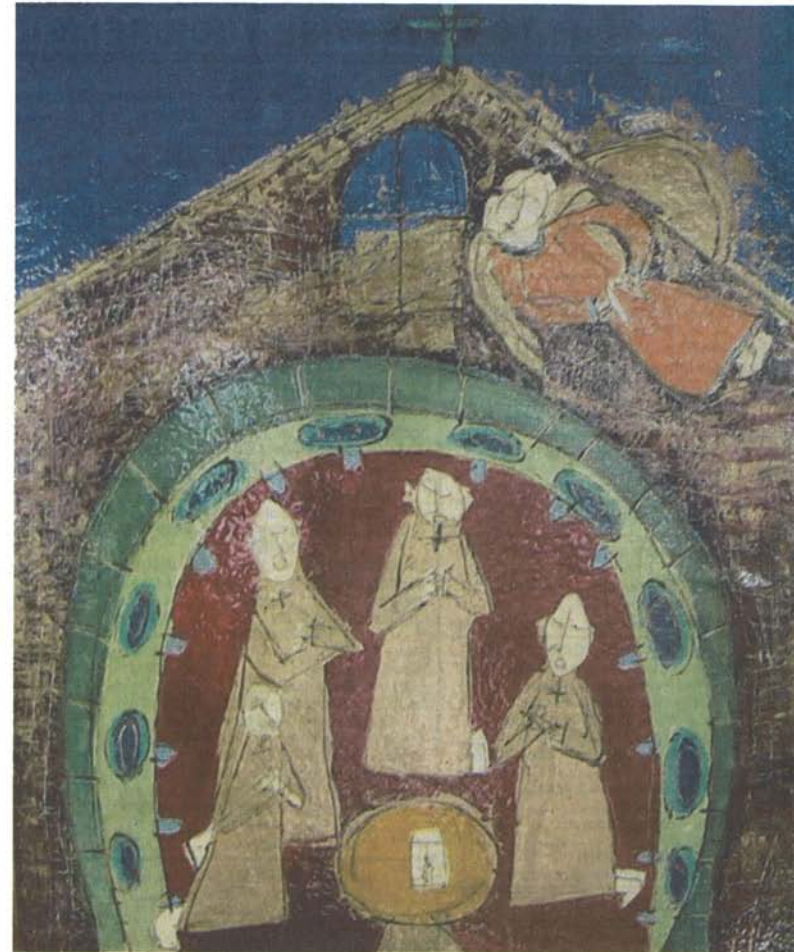


Image courtesy of Tres Taylor

Lauds: The coming of the Light

according to Taylor, encourages people to live and act with reverence.

"It was easy to intellectualize my spirituality, but she was teaching me to put it into practice," he ex-

plained in an e-mail.

"Painting is what I love to do, and so life is easy there," he added. "But the better way is to bring that same reverence and love into everything I do."