Joe W. Taylor came to St. Augustine as a baby with his family in their Model T Ford “in the middle of a hurricane” in 1942. Except for his absences due to naval service and studies at Valdosta State College and the New York Art Institute, where he studied under Everett Raymond Kinstler, Moses Soyer and Robert Brackman, St. Augustine has been the city where he has lived and pursued his career, eventually owning the Colours Studio Gallery on Aviles Street before retiring in 2002. His paintings can currently be seen in the Aviles Gallery and his studio in Elkton, FL.

He is an outdoor painter, who does much of his work on location at Aviles Street, with its many authentic historic buildings, and Lincolnville, a historic African-American neighborhood with the highest concentration of Victorian residences in St. Augustine, many built by black carpenters. He also does portraits and enjoys painting farm animals and is so noted for his paintings of roosters that he is called “the rooster painter”.

The canvas we own, an untitled canvas from a trilogy called “Jettys”, was done as a class project in 1973 and consists of oil, acrylic, and gold foil faded to silver. Taylor admits it is totally different from his style as a realist, but he said was done as an abstract because it was for Irene Dodd’s class.

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3. Taylor, Joe. W. “Re: Question about an older piece.” Message to Deborah S. Davis. E-mail. 21 April 2013.