

SARAH
MARY
TAYLOR . . .



Yazoo Folk Artist
Who Charms The
Nation With Her
Ideas and Skills

Behind the doors of a small
home in Yazoo City,
Mississippi, Sarah Mary Taylor
uses her imagination and skills
to create works of art —
quilts and whimsical
drawings — that are exhibited
in museums and in private
collections all over the United
States . . . in
Alabama, California,
Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois,
Louisiana, Mississippi, New
Mexico, New York,
North Carolina,
and also in the
Corcoran Gallery
in Washington, D.C.



In the late 1970s, Sarah Mary Taylor's late aunt, Pecolia Warner, received attention for her quilting skills from professors at the University of Mississippi. They soon became aware, too, of Sarah Mary Taylor's quilting, purchasing and exhibiting her works. Widespread attention followed, as her works were purchased for private collections and museums around the country.

One of her most famous designs, the Hand quilt, was commissioned for the movie, *The Color Purple*.





Sarah Mary Taylor is also known for her captivating drawings using pencil, pen, and magic markers. Some of her drawings are included in many private folk art collections, as well as in folk art publications.

Since the early 1980s, folk art enthusiasts have traveled from all over the country to Yazoo City to visit with her. In 1995, one young quilt enthusiast moved from Nashville to Yazoo City to study under this master quilter.

"The gift I got," says this modest folk artist, "God gave to me."

SARAH M TAYLOR





Sarah Mary Taylor has spent most of her life in or near the Mississippi Delta. She was born in Anding, near Benton, in Yazoo County on August 12, 1916.

She spent most of her life working as a cook, a nanny, a field hand, and housekeeper. It was only when failing health forced her to retire from her more strenuous work that she began to quilt for others as a source of income.

She had been quilting since she was nine years old. "I learned to piece by my mother," says Sarah Mary Taylor.