

# R|A|M

## Splatter Paint Portrait

*"My work is about the meditative nature of how things fit together. The connections that inform awareness determine outcomes in behavior."* —James L. Tanner

Create a colorful, expressive portrait inspired by Tanner's ceramic piece, *Smiling Mercenary*. This large, 3-D earthenware portrait is one of the pieces shown alongside work by a fellow educator and artist in the exhibition, *RAM Showcase: Russell T. Gordon and James Tanner*.



**James L. Tanner**  
*Smiling Mercenary*, 1987  
Glazed earthenware  
25 x 31 1/2 x 5 inches  
Racine Art Museum,  
Gift of Karen Johnson Boyd  
Photography: Jon Bolton

## Supplies

- Cardboard box
- Marbles, balls, or rocks
- Paint
- Tape
- Paper
- Permanent marker



## Instructions

1. Tape a blank piece of paper to the interior bottom of the cardboard box.
2. Squeeze blobs of paint in different colors across the paper.
3. Drop the marbles, balls, or rocks onto the paper inside the box.
4. Tilt and shake the box side to side to drag the marbles/rocks across the paper—smearing the paint in exciting ways.
5. Remove the paper from the box and leave it out to dry overnight.
6. After the paint has dried, use a permanent marker to draw a portrait onto the art piece.

