Armani Williams Racecar Painting

Artsy Thursday

For Artsy Thursday this year, we are celebrating Armani Williams, an American professional stock car racing driver in this process-based art activity. Williams is the first NASCAR driver on the autism spectrum, and he loves showing other children with disabilities that they can achieve their dreams by working hard! In this abstract art project, we will be making marks with paint using found car toys as our paintbrushes. Explore different textures created by the tracks of the wheels and discover what colors you can create when blending and overlapping car tracks.

Gather Materials:

- Toy Cars
- Tempera Paint (4-6 colors)
- Craft Paper (newsprint, poster board, or large paper works best)
- Tape
- Table Covers
- Paper Towels
Begin by covering your table because the cars are likely to get off track. Place your paper in the center of the table, then secure it on all four sides with pieces of tape.

On the large white paper, put a blob of each color along the vertical side of the paper and then on the horizontal side of the paper. You can use any colors you like, but we recommend separating cool colors (purple, blue, green) and warm colors (pink, red, orange) for a fun mixing experience. Yellow is our neutral and can go on both rows.

Gather several cars so that you can have one per color blob. If you don’t have enough cars, use paper towels to clean off the wheels in between colors.
Now for the fun part! Drive over the paint and then over the paper in any direction across or up and down. Notice what marks the tracks make. Slide the car back and forth a few times to smear the paint around.

Drive a second car across the path of the first car. When the track marks cross, the paint should mix and create a new color! Move the cars back and forth to mix the colors fully.

PRO-TIP:
If you have a wind-up car, pull the car back and drive it across your creation. Be careful not to over-wind or it will go flying with paint!

Choose another car and repeat the process of crossing paths and blending colors by moving the cars back and forth. Look at the different textures and marks each car makes. How are the wheels on one car different than the wheels of another? Which wheels blend the colors better?
The colors toward the end of each row may not have had enough paint to blend. Add a blob of color on the end and see what kind of color combinations you can make.

**VARIATIONS:**

Cut your base paper into the shape of a racetrack or outline a racetrack using a marker.

If you have multiple children painting, challenge them to race each other while painting. First one to finish mixing all their color combinations wins!