

Baseball Player's Vision Brings Partnership with Artist

今回は、メジャーリーガーの意外な一面がきっかけとなったアートプロジェクトの話題です。シカゴ・カブスのイアン・ハップ選手が思いついたのは、ファンが普段見ることのできない「ある特別な視点」から球場を描くこと。そのアイデアは、アーティストとのコラボレーションを経て、多くの人の目を楽しませる作品となりました。本文には野球に関連した語彙も登場します。たとえば「dugout」は「選手が控えるベンチ席」の意味で、shouting from the dugout（ベンチから声援を送る）などの表現で使われます。これを機に野球英語にも詳しくなれるかもしれませんね。



1. Article

Read the following article aloud.

Ian Happ is a professional baseball player for the Chicago Cubs of Major Leagues Baseball in the United States. When he first started playing with the team in 2017, he was looking for pictures to hang in his home.

From that simple [desire](#) came an idea and an unlikely partnership with a British artist.

Happ wanted art that showed Wrigley Field, the Cubs ballpark, from a different viewpoint.

Happ said that many fans have been to Wrigley but have never seen what the ballpark looks like from the field. He thought looking up from the field was “such a cool experience” that he wanted to “bring that to more Cubs fans.”

He hired the British artist Patrick Vale to create three large drawings of Wrigley from his point of view five years ago.

Instead of having pictures to hang in his home, the partnership led to something quite different.

Happ's view of Wrigley Field became the Through My Eyes project, in which fans can purchase prints. The money goes toward Happ's [charity](#). The drawings by Vale became See What I See, an exhibit at Chicago's Gallery Victor. The show is open through August 26.

All this started with Happ simply looking for artwork.

A college teammate at the University of Cincinnati had become an [architect](#) in New York. That teammate gave Happ the names of several artists. One was Vale.

Happ noticed the level of detail in Vale's drawings of cities. After talking with Vale, Happ got the idea to bring Vale to Chicago and draw Wrigley Field from a viewpoint few fans get to experience. The drawings would be from a player's point of view looking out onto the field and into the stands of the famous ballpark.

Happ brought Vale to Chicago in September of 2018 and showed him around Wrigley. Vale knew little about the sport of baseball. But he understood the connection fans have with Wrigley.

"I understand when people talk about baseball and their connections to family and family stories and childhood," said Vale, who lives in New York. "It's the same for me with cricket. I can remember summers in the garden with grandpa and listening to the radio."

Happ had to explain to Vale the importance of the 400 feet sign in center field and the famous [manual](#) scoreboard and ivy. He had to teach him the correct positioning of the players. Happ also explained what it feels like standing in the field under the bright lights with a loud crowd.

Vale took pictures and used them to help him create drawings in great detail. He would send rough drawings to Happ, who would mark them up in red ink, like a teacher, with suggestions.

The drawings are mostly in black and white. They show everything from the faces of the fans and the people selling drinks to the numbers and pictures on the video screen. They show a celebration from the view of someone looking down the left-field line. And there is the view from the [dugout](#) looking toward third base and right field as the pitcher throws with the bright lights shining.

"He was talking about very specific moments," Vale said of Happ. "The scoreboard needs to feel like the scoreboard, right? I had to respect it and the place."

I'm Ashley Thompson.

Dan Novak adapted this story for VOA Learning English based on reporting by The Associated Press.

2. Key phrases and vocabulary

First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. desire (n.) a strong want

Maya has a desire to learn about other countries and cultures..

2. charity (n.) an organization that collects money and gives it, other resources, or services to people who need it

The International Red Cross is one of the best-known charities in the world.

3. architect (n.) a person who designs buildings

The architect IM Pei designed the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

4. manual (adj.) done by hand

I like to drive a car with a manual transmission, not an automatic one.

5. dugout (n.) the part of a baseball stadium where the team members wait to play

Before the ninth inning, the coach gave a short talk in the dugout to the team.

3. Questions

Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. Who is Ian Happ, and what project did he work on with British artist Patrick Vale?
2. What was Happ's purpose in starting the project?
3. How did Happ prepare Vale for the project?
4. If you could hire a professional artist, what would you have the person draw or paint for you?
5. Where do you think is the most exciting place to be in a stadium, in the stands with the spectators or on the field with the athletes?