

# Brooklyn Native Combines Baseball With Fine Art

By Theresa M. Danna

You can take the man out of Brooklyn, but you can't take the Brooklyn out of the man. Furthermore, for impressionist baseball painter Brian Byrnes, you can't take the boy out of the man either.

Born at Coney Island Hospital on August 30, 1938, the sixth of nine children in an Irish family, Brian spent his boyhood summers dreaming in the Ebbets Field bleachers.

Today he awakens those memories, as well as the boyhood dreams of would-be major leaguers who wound up as accountants and lawyers.

"Baseball has its own peculiar emotional landscape," he muses. "It evokes daydreams, memories, the essence of youth, summertime and energy. The slowness of the game allows time to reflect, not like the intensity of basketball. It's meditative, not violent like football."

Brian feels that the impressionist style of painting is most suitable to capture emotions, like the sun dappled fields and the textures of the player's uniforms and gloves. He recreates the choreography of the pitcher's wind-up and the batter's swing by using the basic principles of tension and dynamics through the proper use of tones, lines and color. He then freezes

the action for a tableau effect.

"Impressionist artists have always painted mundane subjects that the average person could relate to, like Monet's haystacks and Toulouse-Lautrec's circuses. I have the opportunity to do the same thing."

When the Dodgers celebrated their 100th anniversary last year, Brian got the idea to combine baseball with fine art as a way to express his own real feelings about something that was important to him.

Even though he paints players from a variety of teams and several ballparks that are favorites among sentimentalists, Ebbets Field and the old Brooklyn Dodgers are by far the most requested subjects.

Brian has painted: Dazy Vance, Pepper Martin, Pete Reiser, Preacher Roe, Jackie Robinson, Carl Furillo, Ted Williams, Roger Maris, Whitey Ford, Warren Spahn, Sportsman Park, Wrigley Field and Don Larsen's perfect game at Yankee Stadium.

Original paintings range in price from \$150 to \$400. Limited edition full color prints cost \$40. For more information write to him at PO Box 3399, Pacoima, CA 91333-3399 or call (818) 896-2493.

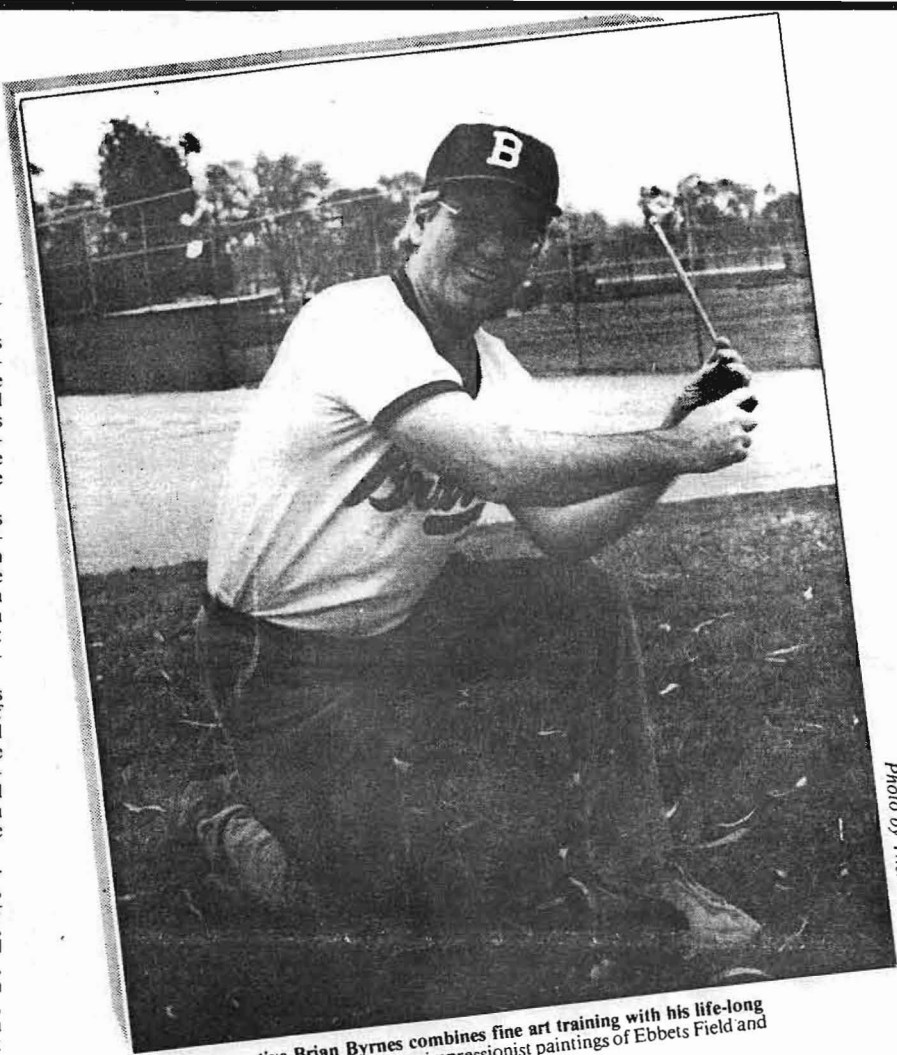


Photo by Theresa Danna

Brooklyn native Brian Byrnes combines fine art training with his life-long love of baseball to create unique impressionist paintings of Ebbets Field and the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Dazy Vance • Image size 14" x 21"



Pepper Martin • Image size 14" x 21"



Ebbets Field • Image size 16" x 20"

