

MARK MOTHERSBAUGH: MYOPIA

I grew up in Akron, Ohio, and I had severe myopia that went undiagnosed until the second grade. My teacher would say things to me like, "Read what it says on the board," and I'd ask, "What's a board?" or I'd make a joke because I couldn't see anything. My teacher disciplined me almost every day.

When my sight issues were finally diagnosed, I was in the car with my dad coming back from getting my first pair of glasses. We came over a hill, and I saw smoke coming out of chimneys. I saw the tops of trees. Before then I had only known the bottom part—the part that I ran into. I saw the sun for the first time, and I just went, "Holy crap!"

I showed up at school with glasses, and I started drawing pictures. My teacher said, "Hey, you draw better than me." It was the first time a teacher hadn't either spanked me or put me in a corner. I knew then that I wanted to be an artist.

-Mark Mothersbaugh