

Begin with the impossible. You have to start somewhere. In the beginning, there is always doubt. The empty page. The block of marble. The wall-spanning canvas, stretched with expectation. \* Imagine 12-foot frames arriving on a delivery truck, the way your heart sinks as you think of the challenges ahead. Run your hand along their slender profile and think of movie screens. Remember that the image is only what's projected in your mind. The tensions are inescapable, plentiful, and essential. \* Picture the impossible, then try to do *something*. Reach, knowing the desired results are just beyond your grasp. Envision success in spite of this, with the aid of your favorite sports clichés: Work hard and practice. Relax and stay focused. Play within yourself. The devoted free agent artist swinging away in the cages. \* Through painting, we claim what's not ours, what we could never otherwise possess. Painting is an act of faith, a trusting in the process. We are mesmerized, not by ideas, but lines, shapes and texture. Seduced, not just by colors, but the relationships between them. \* It's important to exist in space, to close our eyes and not be lost. Doubt is a void that pulls you in the less you try to escape. Belief is a feeling, a grip that strengthens with your convictions. Don't mistake feeling small for being insignificant. \* Even as we busy ourselves, we are always seeking balance. Let your eyes adjust to the luminous intensity of emotion, the density of stillness, a thousand candela per brushstroke. If light is energy, the darkness gives us a place to rest. \* The pool, then, is a dynamo powered by your spirit. A wellspring and a mirror. An ornamental liquid crystal fountain you can swim in. An invitation to a reservoir of quiet and reflection. An ersatz baptismal vat where you are born again, and again, and again. \* You have always been close, but now you're even closer. Now you can almost dip your toe in, or see your own reflection. When you forget what you're looking for, the real seeing begins. \* To get to where you want to be, you must find out where you're going. For your imagination to work as it should, let it stretch *ad infinitum*. From your backyard to the cosmos, from your soul to the canvas. From the real to the impossible, until there is no difference.