

*The Artistic Process*  
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Art is a living process.

Starting is always the hardest part. We struggle with beginnings. But how can we begin, if we are unsure of where we end? With every stroke of the brush, every click of the keyboard, every spray of the can, things become a little bit clearer. Things take shape. Like life, it comes together; piece by piece, day by day. Simple as that.

Like black magic, strange rituals are performed to summon our creative powers; the painter who must sketch her design one hundred times, before she will even consider lifting the easel; the writer who must drink and get drunk, as if he's never had a clever thought sober; the musician who must calibrate his instruments precisely, as if one off note will sour the whole melody; the poet who must walk beneath the predawn moon, as if the sun would outshine her spirit. Customs and habits, the things we deem necessary before we will pour our soul into art. Maybe these are the keys to success; perhaps we simply procrastinate the hard work.

Embarking on the artistic life is a risk, as I'm sure you know. When it comes to creating, you tend to live, feast or famine. You accept your choice and its consequences. Of courses that's easier when you're thinking of the feast; so stay hungry.

So we say 'okay, now I may start, So, maybe I wasted a little time, maybe I could have started earlier. It's alright, I've got it going now.' As you work, you gain momentum. Ideas flow freely, innovation comes like divine inspiration. There is a clarity to what you are working towards.

You sense it, that hazy light on the horizon. The force pulls you, guides you, outlining a destination. One you can reach. One you will reach.

Sisyphian as it may seem, the mountain is something we all have to climb. Mixed metaphors and all, the creative journey can only be conquered by putting in the work. Work that begins and ends with every project; bringing us there, only to come back here.

Life imitates art, art imitates life. Both are constructed by our choices. Have faith as you create, because in the end, it's all part of the process.