

The first cry



Acrylic paint on canvas.

by Janny Ke

Ms Xue Chen Janny Ke is a fourth-year medical student at the University of British Columbia, class of 2015. She completed 1 year of science and 2 years of pharmacy at the undergraduate level before entering medicine.

This painting was inspired by my first delivery as a medical student. The little being finally emerged, covered with blood and goo. Then he cried—at first crackling, then louder and louder. His mom hugged him tightly, pain and exhaustion forgotten. His dad couldn't wait to sneak in a kiss.

Medicine has brought me into some of people's most excruciating,

profound, and beautiful moments. In this painting, I hoped to capture a moment of wonder and celebrate the timelessness and universality of the love and magic that are perhaps as much a part of medicine as disease is. As a beginner in both medicine and my journey in search of meaning and myself, I am thankful to witness the powerful love that surrounds us at the first cries and the last farewells, alike.

—**Janny Ke**
Vancouver