

Tiger Study

Catherine Garvin

The tiger gives birth.

Amniotic sac yellow and cloudy-
precedes the cub.

The sensation of the mother's tongue triggers the lungs.

Four breaths, *good girl*, applause.

Black stripes drive lines on their heads,
thicker than along their backs.

Paint clumps on the fur around their paws.

Fifty dollars for one canvas for conservation.

Their eyes are blue and wide.

When a tiger licks its paws, it is preparing to hunt.

She steps on the earth tenderly.

These are young deer and they have never seen a tiger.

She crouches lower than the deer.

Her eyes are yellow now.

Yes, at last, I know for sure she is feeding.