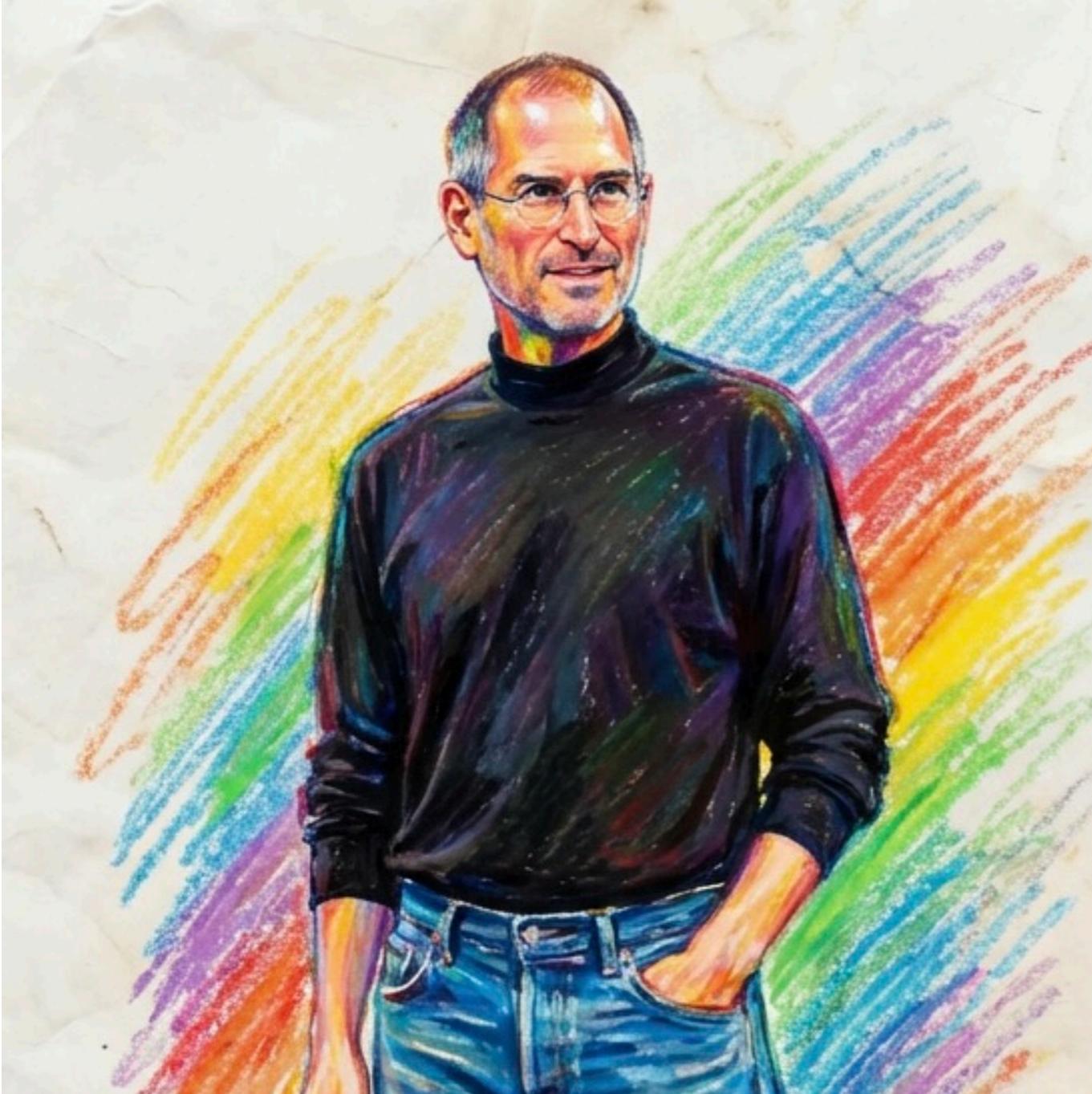
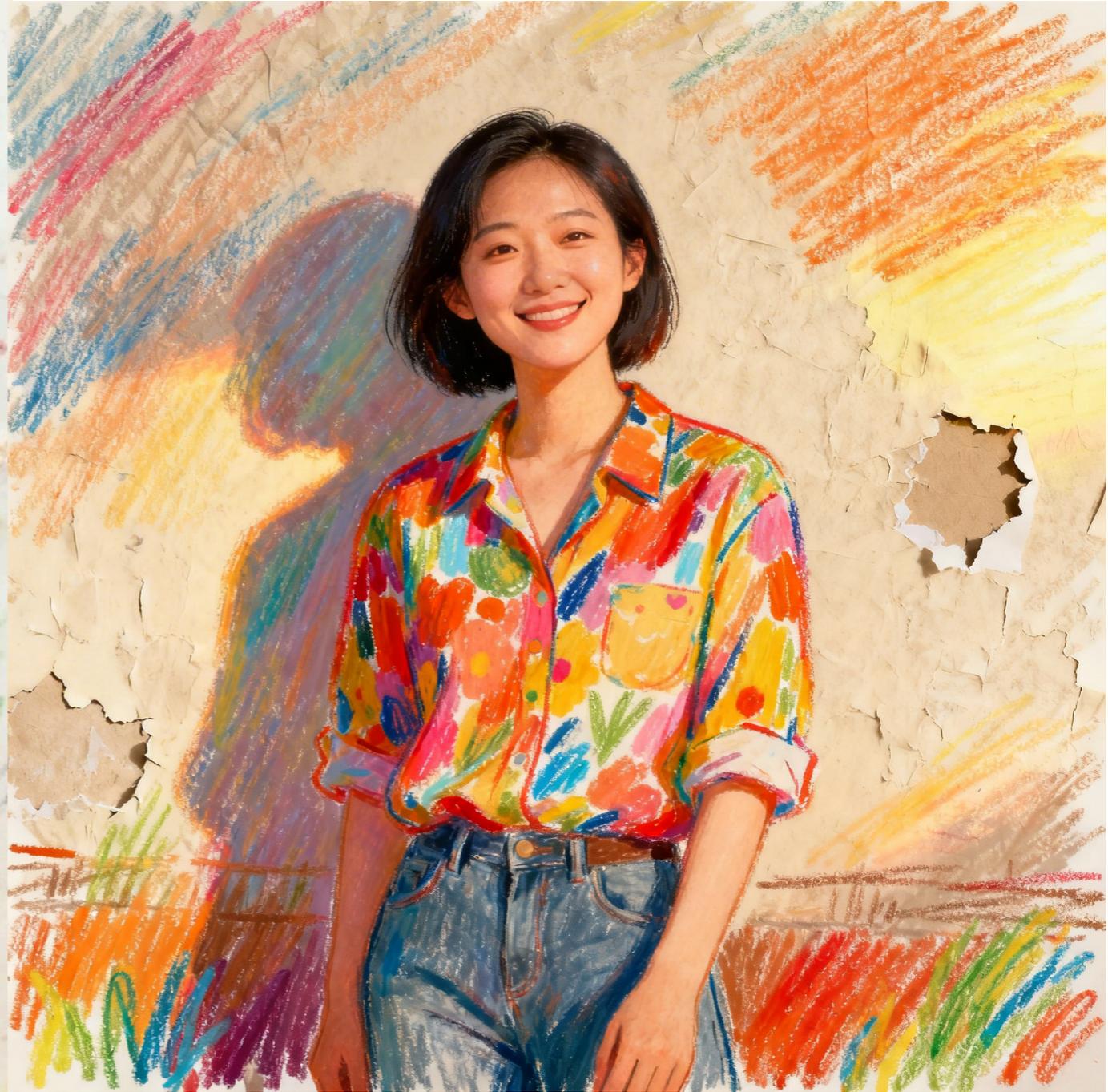


# **Inequality 1**

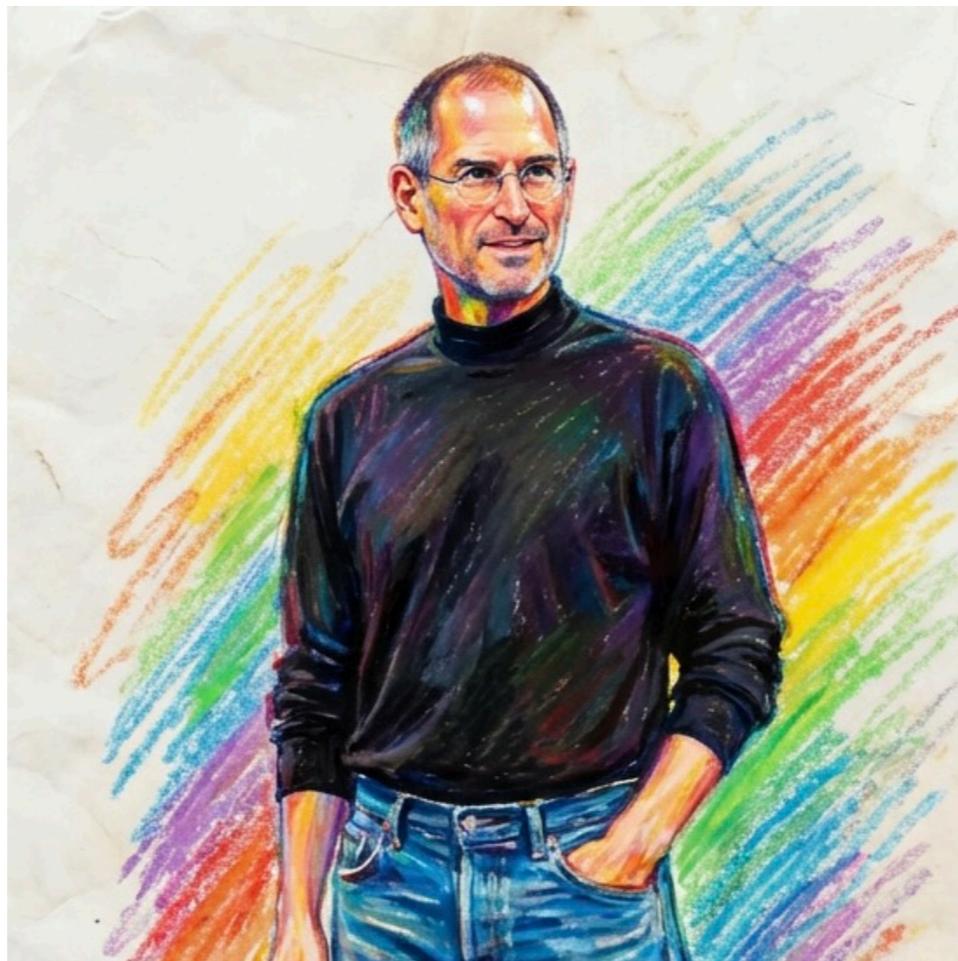
All people are unequal,  
but some are more  
unequal than others



**Steve Jobs,  
Apple Computer**



**Fei-Fei Li,  
ImageNet AI**



All people are unequal, but some are more unequal than others. In economic terms, we have inequality of income and wealth. I think everybody expects economic inequality, but we hope for equality of opportunity.

Some people are born with rich parents, so they get the best education, the best early life experience, the best contacts, and sometimes a big pile of money to go with all that.

Others are born in abject poverty, with poor nutrition, primitive health care, and families that live in fear. Children go to work before they can read, and sometimes fall victim to child trafficking. This is highly unequal.

In the United States, we have made efforts to provide equal opportunity through public schools, child welfare programs, and scholarships for college. But it's much more expensive to live here than in countries without these benefits.

We have a lot of stories about rags to riches, and there is a persistent myth that ANYONE can become rich with hard work and good ideas. I think this is about half true.

As examples from the real world, consider Steve Jobs and Fei-Fei Li. Both of them had parents with below-average incomes, and both became very successful in the computer industry.

But there is a difference between below average and abject poverty. Both families of these two innovators gave their children a good basic education, time to explore the world, and a healthy emotional environment. Parents in a war zone, for example, just can't do that.

I expect we're going to be economically unequal for the foreseeable future. But now that our GDP per capita is about \$90,000 in the United States, we don't need our poorest people to be SO unequal. If every child had the resources of middle class American children, we could expect more phenomenal success stories.