

M I C H A E L GOEDHUIS

XIAOXUAN LI

WHAT CAN I ESCAPE?

2000

Ink and colour on xuan paper

74 ½ x 38 in (189 ½ x 96 ½ cm)

Framed: 85 ½ x 43 ½ in (217 x 110 ½ cm)



Artist description:

Born in Tianjin in 1959, Li Xiaoxuan is one of the most prominent of the wave of innovators producing the New Literati Painting in contemporary China. He graduated from the Chinese Painting Department at the Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts in 1982. Because of the nude figures in his graduation

piece, as a form of punishment, he was assigned to work in a local library. Supported by several art professors, Li started to teach Chinese painting at the Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts in 1985, and continues to teach there. Deeply influenced by German Expressionism, Li is interested in probing people's psychological state. Since the late 1980s, he has used dense brushwork to depict the seemingly mundane and insignificant men and women in Chinese cities, especially in Tianjin. In his paintings, Li alludes, with more than a touch of desperate humour, to the loneliness, anxiety and helplessness of modern city dwellers and presents them in works of highly expressive draftsmanship and psychological insight.