

M I C H A E L GOEDHUIS

GU WENDA 王端

CLOUDY MORNING AT MOUNT HUANGSHAN

Ink on paper

83.19 x 76.2 cm (32 3/4 x 30 inches)



Artist description:

Wenda Gu moved to New York in 1987, and has become one of highest-profile members of the Chinese diaspora. Although studying traditional Chinese painting, Gu became one of the leading figures in the New Wave art movement of the mid-1980s, when he utilized the technical skills he acquired in school for his iconoclastic painting and calligraphy projects. *Ink Valley and White Water*, 1986, exemplifies Gu's revolt against the tyranny of the traditional aesthetics of brush and ink (bimo) by subverting it. The large-scale and unconventional composition of the painting has created a spiritual and surreal world, which reflects the mentality of the Chinese society and idealist art of the 1980s, when huge social changes took place. By combining different character components, Gu has invented unreadable characters to investigate the power of the written word. In most of these works, he places these powerfully symbolic pseudo-characters in vast surreal spaces.