



## Li Guijun 李贵君

Li Guijun has painted adolescent girls exclusively for almost twenty years. The artist takes Chinese girls as the medium because they are brought up in a simple and disciplined environment, one that they live in their own world, a pure and loving dreamland. During the period between childhood and adulthood, physically and psychologically, they are like buds ready to blossom. His "girl next door" series of works brings the viewer into his inner self to find a moment of silence far removed from the daily pressure. In order to achieve aesthetic excellence, Li Guijun has spent all his time and energy on colour, composition, structure, and particularly on the planning and manipulation of each and every detail. In this sense, every work of his is not a result of spontaneity, every one of his works is a design of precision. Using an unusual painting process, he starts with the head and works his way down to the rest of the character leaving the background until the end. To paint flesh realistically, he uses a finely rendered mix of brown, red, blue, green, turquoise blue and white tones inspired by the artist Rembrandt. Li Guijun paints an ideal world of peaceful elegance and the hieratic poses and expressions of his characters illustrate their separation from reality.

Born in Beijing, China in 1964, Li Guijun graduated from the Central Academy of Fine Art in 1988 and subsequently obtained a Master's degree in oil painting at the Academy in 1995. Li Guijun is recognised as one of the China's "Fourth Generation Painters" and together with 13 leading Realism artists he contributed in forming Beijing Realism Group. He currently lives and works in Beijing. The artist has widely exhibited at home and abroad and held exhibitions in cities notably Beijing, Hong Kong, Taipei, Bangkok, Singapore, Berlin and Brussels. The artist maintained a close working relationship with Schoeni Art Gallery in the early years of his career, holding four solo exhibitions with the gallery in 1996, 1999, 2000 and 2004 respectively. His works are amongst major museum and private collections, namely Shanghai Art Museum, the Burgers Collection in Hong Kong, China National Museum of Fine Arts, whilst consistently fetched impressive auction results.