



Back to New York School Time
Recommendations by R.C. Baker
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Laurie Simmons

Just down the block, you can wander smack into the dreamy spaces that Laurie Simmons has conjured by placing Japanese-designed "Teenette" dolls (tall American girls wearing tight skirts and cable-knit sweaters) in front of projected ideal-home interiors. Taking her cue from a 1940s interior-design book that warns "Misused, color will mock all your efforts," Simmons matched the hues of the solidly colored plastic dolls, manufactured in Japan during the early '60s, with accents from the photographs; hence, the dusky-green girl standing in that '70s-ish kitchen with the avocado-tinted fixtures. All of the images date from 1983, but they feel like Technicolor studio films, the rear-projected sets utterly phony even as the carefully placed dolls and integrated lighting coalesce into definite, if unknowable, narratives. Skarstedt, 20 E 79th, 212-737-2060. Through October 27