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## Ericka Beckman at Le MAGASIN, Grenoble

In Ericka Beckman's exuberant work, both objects and bodies are staged to perform. Born in 1951, she studied at the California Institute for the Arts and then moved from Los Angeles to New York in the mid-seventies. Since then, she has been delving into the construction of the image and of the self with her films "moving backwards" through a recollection of past experiences. Following her recent successful mid-career retrospective at the Kunsthalle Bern, a selection of her work will be on view at Le MAGASIN in Grenoble. Her works are carefully researched and constructed, featuring sets of playful, handmade props in bold colors and elaborately intertwining live-action filming with layers of animation. Her narratives combine elements of choreography, music and singing with underlying structures borrowed from team sports and games. *We Imitate: We Break Up* (1978) is the first part of her experimental "Super-8 Trilogy" (1978-80), in which Beckman and her friends perform. Dressed in a girl's school uniform, the artist imitates the movement of a pair of wooden puppet legs. Beckman draws here from the writings of psychologist Jean Piaget, in particular his study of cognitive development in childhood. In more recent work, the artist goes a step further in performing the image, employing architectural features to direct the camera. In the end, it seems her work is left to perform itself.