



Ericka Beckman, You the Better

Art, Sculpture

FREE



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Courtesy Mary Boone Gallery

Ericka Beckman, *You the Better*, 1983, installation view

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TIME OUT SAYS

This 1983 Super-8 film transferred to video remains a classic of its type, redolent of the Pop/Conceptualist aesthetic that was a hallmark of the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts), which Beckman attended. Non-narrative in structure and employing stop-motion animation mixed with live actors, *You the Better* unfolds as an allegory of suburban conformity versus free will, a *Tron*-like scenario where human players are trapped in a game dictated by chance (though not the computer variety). The action, a surreal combination of basketball and shuffleboard (or maybe volleyball), is depicted as a dreamlike progression, with cartoonish props, sets, costumes and a soundtrack of high-pitched, singsongy tunes, evoking childhood play. This show is the first time the film has been shown as a complete installation, with the props from the film serving as sculptural elements.

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