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GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN: ART

LAURIE SIMMONS

Since the seventies, Simmons's photographs have been raising questions about identity and role play, and her new color pictures are no exception: most of them portray "dollers," people who dress up as the wide-eyed girls in Japanese anime. Wearing outsized heads, the figures' cloying cuteness is subverted by sexy outfits: mermaids, miniskirts, latex. Some pose like fashion models in cramped attic rooms; others take selfies in the snow. But, whatever their guise, Simmons's subjects remain unnervingly alien—recalling the sideshow grotesquerie of her earlier photographs of ventriloquists' dummies more than the seductively human affect of her recent pictures of love dolls. These creatures aren't lovable; they're nightmarish and all the more memorable for it. Through April 28.

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