untitled #27 (override)

untitled #104 (A Short Story of Happenstance)
untitled #27 (override), 1997
untitled #104 (A Short Story of Happenstance), 2003

**Topsy-Turvy Tales**

Anna Gaskell (b. 1969) is inspired by narratives ranging from Lewis Carroll’s *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* (1865) to the imperfect recollections of children and adolescents. She uses photography and film to reduce stories to their essence and reimagine them.

**Take a closer look**

Severe camera angles, varying print sizes, and dramatic lighting infuse Gaskell’s ambiguous images with flickers of fantasy and touches of tension. As you explore the effects of these elements, see what stories unfold.

**Something to talk about**

Gaskell describes her works as “elliptical narratives”—stories without a single interpretation or a clearly defined beginning or end. How does she keep us guessing? What do you think is going on in these pictures?

**In her own words**

“Trying to combine fiction, fact, and my own personal mishmash of life into something new is how I make my work…. I try to insert a degree of mystery that ensures that the dots may not connect in the same way every time.”

Anna Gaskell, *untitled #27 (override)*, 1997; Chromogenic print mounted on Plexiglas; 50 x 60 inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Heather and Tony Podesta Collection; © Anna Gaskell; Photograph by Lee Stalsworth

Anna Gaskell, *untitled #104 (A Short Story of Happenstance)*, 2003; Chromogenic print; 71¼ x 90¼ x 2 inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Heather and Tony Podesta Collection; © Anna Gaskell; Photograph by Lee Stalsworth