

*Souffler n'est pas jouer* 2005 – translated as *Prompt Book* by Alice Anderson – keeps us in the land of fairy tales but this time a cruel, domestic tale. Even if domestic stories occupy an important part of her work, it would be too simple and belittling to limit them to biographical allusion. Within a fairytale framework, her films allow the imagination to run free. Alice Anderson likes to tell stories in closed places and structures a time that is not linear. The fairytale world enables her to go backwards, to jump from one age to another, to be fourteen years old, then seven. "*Once upon a time, in a far off land...*" where anything is possible. The story places the girl between her father and mother. In a circus, under the constant pressure and unforgiving gaze of the father/trainer, an adolescent somersault champion, Natasha, is training for a new competition. The stakes beyond winning back her father's esteem and love must also free him from a debt which implies the necessity of winning first prize. An unfortunate fall, in spite of the word *will* written on a note hidden up her sleeve, relegates the young girl to the highest room in a desolated manor. An uncared for recluse, she is subject to a worrying metamorphosis where the accentuated blue tones contribute to installing the drama. The mother enters the scene and settles her own account: resentment, latent hate. To her daughter who has become a confiding and gullible child again, she vilely suggests what she should do. The dictated jump is fatal.