SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED ONLY ONCE
An animated panorama in two loops
Directed by Roderick Coover
20 Minute Stereo Loop

SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED ONLY ONCE blends seven narrative fragments in a slowly revolving and evolving double panorama that takes the form of a mobius strip. The piece follows a female protagonist, a male counterpart, and other characters in a manner that suggests narrative but never becomes it. Instead it's an expression of temperament or a consciousness – a searching, a longing, a loneliness. It was recorded in Coyocan Plaza, Mexico City. Recorded in Coyocan Plaza, Mexico City, this work is created through layers of photographic imagery, songs, and found sounds. Deb Olin Unferth’s lyrics are adapted to music by the Dutch singer Jodi Gilbert who is joined in the performance by Dutch saxophonist, Michael Moore.

The seamlessness of panoramic time and space is an illusion; slowly through subtle manipulation of visual layers, conventions of contiguity and continuity begin to break down. Characters appear in orders and frequency that would be impossible under the documentary conventions invoked in the image style. Further, the second loop is different from the first. However, while some narratives that begin in the first loop conclude in the second loop, for other events, the order is the inverse. The effect is created using layers of imagery stitched and composited from over 1000 photographs. The work has then been animated into two revolving and evolving loops with events and various manipulations that undermine the notion of a stability actuality.

CREDITS
Musical Composition: Jodi Gilbert
Voices: Jodi Gilbert, Grainne Delaney
Little instruments: Jodi Gilbert
Clarinet and field recording: Michael Moore
Studio recordist: Frank van der Weij
Recording mix: Jodi Gilbert, Frank van der Weij
Multitrack mix, Remastering: Roderick Coover
Lyrics by Deb Olin Unferth
Directed and Produced by Roderick Coover
Filmed in Mexico City
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Sample animation plates for SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED ONLY ONCE

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