

Document Citation

Title	Art for teachers of children
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Source	<i>Vancouver International Film Festival</i>
Date	1995 Sep 29
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	98
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Art for teachers of children, Montgomery, Jennifer, 1995

Vancouver IFF,
9/29 - 10/15/95, p. 98



Art for Teachers of Children

USA, 1995, 82 minutes

Director: Jennifer Montgomery

Cast: Caitlin Grace McDonnell, Duncan Hannah, Coles Burroughs, Jennifer Williams, Ruth S.

Montgomery **Producer/Screenplay/Cinematographer/Editor:** Jennifer Montgomery

Production Company: gardez-bien **Print**

Source/Distributor: Zeitgeist Films

"In 1989 I was harassed by the FBI. They were attempting to exact testimony from me in a much-publicized case against an alleged child pornographer. As one of the photographic subjects in question, I have my own perverse angle on the case and the surrounding storm of controversy.

The story is a kind of boarding school melodrama tracing the development of my relationship to this man, and pausing along the way to look at the complicated issue of the age of consent." —

Jennifer Montgomery

"Assuming the leaden style of a cautionary sex-education film, Jennifer Montgomery has made a provocatively undoctrinaire memoir of an affair which she initiated at the age of 14 with a married teacher twice her age. Though we are left in little doubt as to her subsequent contempt for her "mentor," Montgomery is not about to dismiss the force of her own egotism in fueling the affair. The wisdom of her hindsight is complex—and is tellingly juxtaposed with the crude invasive force of the FBI determined to cast her as a victim and her Pygmalion as a monster. Reversing the roles of artist and model, Montgomery metes out her own much more refined justice. The culprit might have preferred prison to seeing his self-serving "detachment" observed so sharply—or hearing his old letters read aloud on the soundtrack of this film. For all its exposure of his fecklessness, the film refuses to provide easy answers to the easy questions: Should somebody have intervened? Could anybody have intervened? When does yes mean I don't know?" —Bill Gosden, Wellington Film Festival