Julie Moos
Monsanto
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The Renaissance Society
at The University of Chicago, 5811 South Ellis, Chicago, IL 60637
In 1939, a young James Agee was assigned to write a report on sharecropping families. He traveled to Hale County, Alabama, documenting the lives of sharecroppers for the Farm Security Administration. Agee and Walker Evans, with whom she later worked, captured the rural South in vivid detail, illustrating the sharecroppers’ lives through their work and family dynamics.

Julie Moos’s series, “Monsanto,” explores the lives of farmers and their families who grow genetically modified crops. Moos’s photographs capture the farmers in their natural environment, focusing on their intimate interactions and the landscape they inhabit. Her images are a testament to the resilience and hard work of American farmers.

Moos’s series is not simply a documentary but an attempt to engage her subject through traditional and non-traditional means. Her photographs are a form of reportage that sheds light on the complex relationships between farmers and their environments. Moos’s work is a reminder of the importance of preserving agricultural landscapes and the stories of those who work the land.

Moos’s photographs are also a commentary on the corporate influence over agricultural practices. She highlights the use of genetically modified crops and their impact on rural America, challenging the myth of the self-sufficient farmer. Moos’s work invites us to reconsider our relationship with the land and the people who work it.

In conclusion, Moos’s “Monsanto” series is a powerful exploration of American agriculture. It raises important questions about the future of farming and the role of corporations in shaping the agricultural landscape. Moos’s photographs are a call to action, urging us to support sustainable farming practices and to appreciate the complex relationship between farmers and their environment.