Machines that Worked the Land

Photographs by Michael Domino

Artist Statement

Machines That Worked the Land is a photographic study of the tractors, graders, crawlers, and agricultural machinery that once transformed the American landscape.

These machines were built for work, not beauty. They pulled plows, graded roads, moved earth, cleared fields, and carried generations of farmers through long days of physical labor. Their worn steel, fading paint, exposed gears, battered wheels, and advancing rust now record that history as clearly as any written document.

I photograph these machines apart from the clutter of the places where I find them, placing them against an open, spare landscape. By isolating them, I want the viewer to see each machine not simply as discarded equipment, but as an individual object—almost a piece of industrial sculpture.

Rust is especially important to this series. It is evidence of age, weather, abandonment and time, but it also reveals extraordinary surfaces and colors. Machines that were once valued entirely for what they could accomplish have acquired a different kind of presence after their working lives have ended.

The occasional barn or gathering of machinery broadens that story. These objects belonged to a larger agricultural world—a landscape of fields, buildings, labor and mechanical ingenuity that is steadily disappearing.

Machines That Worked the Land is not intended as nostalgia. It is a record of survival and transformation: portraits of machines that helped shape the land and now, standing silent upon it, have become monuments to the work they once performed.

--Michael Domino

Biography

Michael Domino is a New York photographer whose work explores memory, history, and the passage of time through carefully constructed photographic exhibitions.

His recent projects include DOMINO: A Meditation on Time, Camp Hero, and HERITAGE, each transforming familiar subjects into contemplative visual narratives that exist somewhere between documentary photography and fine art.

Michael's work is inspired by the belief that ordinary places and objects often possess extraordinary stories waiting to be rediscovered.

Contact

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Tractor and Distant Barn

Farmall at the Barn

Red Farmall

Green John Deere

Yellow Tractor

Case

Weathered Farm Tractor

Steel-Wheel Tractor

Open Road Grader

Early Road Grader

Rusted Farm Machine

International Tractor

International Diesel Crawler

John Deere Crawler

White Crawler

Rusted Crawler

Machines Face to Face

Tractor and Lone Wheel

Farmall on the Open Plain

The Old Workhorse

Machines at Rest

Fully Rusted Dozer