

THE PICTURE | THE STORY

Julie Blackmon



Homegrown Food, 2012

This little market, Homegrown Food, in my hometown of Springfield, Missouri, is one of the first “**organic**” groceries to appear in our Midwestern town and is evidence of the rebirth of the small neighborhood grocery store that has taken hold nationwide. It is one of the many signs of our changing landscape, and the new state of health consciousness that has emerged in our country. But conflicting messages still abound in regard to the health conscious and the hip, and so I decided to have fun with this idea when I saw one of the workers outside smoking one day. The setting ... with **it’s** striped awning, and the various figures and angles, and the construction workers nearby, reminded me of **Balthus’** famous painting “**The Street,**” and so I decided to reference it as a way of enhancing or exaggerating the scene.