Introduction Honorable Mention “The Gleaners and I”

I am pleased to introduce Sol Elsila, whose video essay, “The Gleaners and I,” has won this year’s Honorable Mention of the Ossip Award for Excellence in Seminar in Composition. When enrolled in a section of Alison Paterson’s for SC - Topics in Film, Sol crafted a whimsical video essay on the documentary *The Gleaners and I*, created by the late French filmmaker and artist, Agnes Varda. I so enjoy how this video essay pays homage to, and extends, Verda’s own documentary practice in its sense of playfulness and exploration as it invites viewers into Varda’s eclectic worldview.

Sol has composed a piece that, in its very form, converses with, and iterates upon, Varda’s documentarian technique of pastiche with quirky, lighthearted charm. Sol’s essay has rewarded multiple viewings as his audio narration takes us through a thoughtful analysis of Verda’s meta-exploration of the act of gleaning as a practice in both physical and digital spaces. Join me in congratulating Sol Elsila for his delightful video essay.