

Chana Kowalska- The Shtetl



This picture shows a traditional village Shtetl in Eastern Europe in the 1930'S.

What factors led to the decline of these traditional villages?



The telegraph pole and the street lamp show the influence of the modern world.

Is there any other evidence of the modern world in the painting?

What evidence of the traditional Shtetl way of life can we see in the painting?

In this painting, Kowalska creates an almost 'dream-like' scene. As a viewer we 'float' above the scene, as if in a dream....

Why might the artist have chosen to depict the scene in this way?

The buildings are brightly coloured which makes the houses appear child-like and friendly. It almost feels as though we are witnessing a childhood memory.



What other techniques does the artist use to convey the impression of 'dreams' or 'memory' ?

Given the biography of the artist, why might she have chosen to depict the Shtetl scene in this way?