



(Image found at <http://www.artreview.com/photo/train-tracks-2-by-bob-dylan?context=user> .)

The above painting by Bob Dylan, titled *Train Tracks II*, is one of a series based on sketches he did while touring between 1989 to 1990. His paintings and sketches have been compared to Degas, Toulouse-Lautrec, Van Gogh and Matisse. But, there is uniqueness to his paintings.

While I was searching on an image online, I was drawn to this painting before I knew it was by Dylan for its colors, the starkness and its adroit minimalism. However, it did not surprise me that Dylan painted the picture, as several contemporary musicians, have shown that they are artists of merit in both mediums, such as John Lennon and Joni Mitchell.

The painting exhibits a small village on the side of a railroad track. Its impressionist nature depicts how we often see villages when traveling by train: one color, blurred and non-descript. Central in the painting is the tracks and the vistas beyond.

Often small villages go unnoticed when we are traveling by train, bus or automobiles; perceived as mere buildings and not as a place where people live and work. Yet, if we would randomly stop at some of these villages, many interesting features may become apparent. Many small places are 'under the radar' until something tragic happens such as what happened in Newtown, Connecticut; Aurora, Colorado; Gettesburg, Virginia; Guernica, Spain, or Oswiecim (Auschwitz), Poland Yet other villages have been designated significance beyond their size such as Bethlehem, Palestine; Bayreuth, Germany; Florence, Italy; Woodstock, New York; and New Lanark, Scotland (U.K.). The significance occurred at most of these villages was not due to geography, but by chance occurrences (positive or negative.)

For further reading:

Angus MacSwan "Paint on the Tracks: Dylan's art on show in London", Reuters, February 10, 2010, <http://in.reuters.com/article/2010/02/10/us-art-dylan-idINTRE61935V20100210>