In the Alley in France

In the Alley in France is a composite of alleys of Giverny and the area behind the cathedral in Vernon. Here the Lakota commentator registers shock and dismay that the public face of the city is elaborate and manicured, but the alleys are unkempt and medieval-looking. The quotation at the bottom says, “The backs of their houses were sometimes pitiful.” This observation recalls the words of Black Elk (Standing Bear’s friend and fellow participant on the Wild West tours), who later reflected on his travels:

*"I did not see anything to help my people. I could see that the Wasichus [white people] did not care for each other the way our people did before the nation’s hoop was broken. They would take everything from each other if they could, and so there were some who had more of everything than they could use, while crowds of people had nothing at all and maybe were starving."*

Excerpt from the essay "Giving Voice to the Ancestors Through Art: Hybridity, Memory, and Imagination in Arthur Amiotte's Collage Series" written by Janet Catherine Berlo.