

Brief of Work

The artwork reflects the poem's message of the constricting nature of the city, with the "city's concrete", "bridges" and "pavements" becoming part of a monotone, dull prison that entraps the viewer. The girl in the picture represents the speaker in the poem. She is physically connected to the concrete around her with no chance of escape; part of her has become the shell of a snail, just like all the other snails that are crawling on the buildings. This emphasises how the city strips the girl as well as the people in it of their individuality, and how it isolates people, each crawling up into their own tiny shells. The only signs of life are the shadows of the river and the fish – shadows that do not actually exist. These are only an impossible fantasy of the cold, brutal mechanical nature of the city. However, the speaker tries looking for colour, with the girl's hair reaching out to the colours outside of the city – colours that live at the edge of a seemingly unending darkness. Her subconscious reaches out to life and hope, showing the strength of the human mind.