The Cité internationale de la Tapisserie in Aubusson, France, has just signed an agreement with the Tolkien Estate for the creation over the course of four years of a series of 13 tapestries and one carpet based on original graphic works by J. R. R. Tolkien (1892-1973), who started painting and drawing as a child, and continued to do so throughout his entire life.

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Thirteen wall-hanging tapestries will represent paintings made by the author for his children for Christmas, as well as illustrations from his world-famous works, *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*.

The fourteenth piece, the *Numenorean Carpet*, will be a tapestry floor-covering of more than 130 square metres.

2017 Programme:
- Creation of 14 cartoons to final tapestry scale;
- Selection of weaver workshops in the Aubusson-Felletin region to be commissioned for weaving, through sample submissions.
- Presentation of the project in summer 2017 in the Cité internationale de la Tapisserie in Aubusson.
The first step will be the realisation, from the chosen Tolkien works, of the cartoons, or scale models, to be used as guides by Aubusson’s artisan weavers to create the tapestries themselves.

No project show-casing Tolkien’s artistic work in this way has been undertaken before. For the first time, the individual pieces will be treated as a collection depicting Tolkien’s uniquely ‘Anglo-Saxon’ mythology, in the style of the great wall-hangings of the 17th century, which encapsulated iconographic subjects inspired by great narrative works such as The History of Alexander by Charles Le Brun or Ulysses’ Odyssey by Isaac Moillon. The time has now come for the graphic universe of J.R.R. Tolkien to be presented in a unique artistic and historical light.

Credits: