



press release  
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## AUBUSSON WEAVES TOLKIEN

### The fantasy world of J.R.R. Tolkien to be woven as Aubusson tapestries

**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.**

The “Aubusson weaves Tolkien” project will recreate in woven form 14 Tolkien illustrations which have been jointly selected by the Tolkien Estate and the Cité internationale de la Tapisserie for this purpose.

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.

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*Credits :*

1. J.R.R. Tolkien, *Bilbo comes to the Huts of the Raft-Elves*(detail), *The Hobbit*, chap. IX, 1937. Watercolour on paper. One of the five watercolour paintings by the author included in the first American edition of *The Hobbit*.

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## CONTACTS

### anne samson communications

Andréa Longrais  
andrea@annesamson.com | +33(0)1 40 36 84 32  
Camille Delavaquerie  
camille@annesamson.com | +33(0)1 40 36 84 34

### Cité internationale de la tapisserie

Rue des Arts BP 89 - 23200 AUBUSSON  
Séverine David  
aubusson.tolkien@cite-tapisserie.fr | +33(0)9 72 48 15 65

www.cite-tapisserie.fr  
facebook.com/Aubusson.CitArt  
@CiteTapisserie

*Aubusson tapestry is inscribed on the representative list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.*

*The European Union and the Region invest in this project.*

