

The Lord of the Rings Trilogy Exceeds in Cultivating Fine Art Through the Medium of Film



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Abstract

The Lord of the Rings film trilogy transcends the common movie. Through the medium of film, it replaces an average movie experience by expressing and cultivating fine arts such as music, writing, and conceptual art, to bring one of the most rich and influential stories of our time onto the screen.

The Art

Fine art is as an artistic expression of creativity, equal parts intellectual gravitas, unique imagination and time spent mastering the particular craft. Traditionally, some of the major fine arts include the visual arts, music and even literature (Oxford English dictionary. (2002).

An in depth look at the work of Alan Lee and John Howe reveal some of the most intricate, and profound visual art created for The Lord of the Rings trilogy. They are two of only three artists in the world to have created superior and mesmerizing art for The Lord of the Rings books and films.

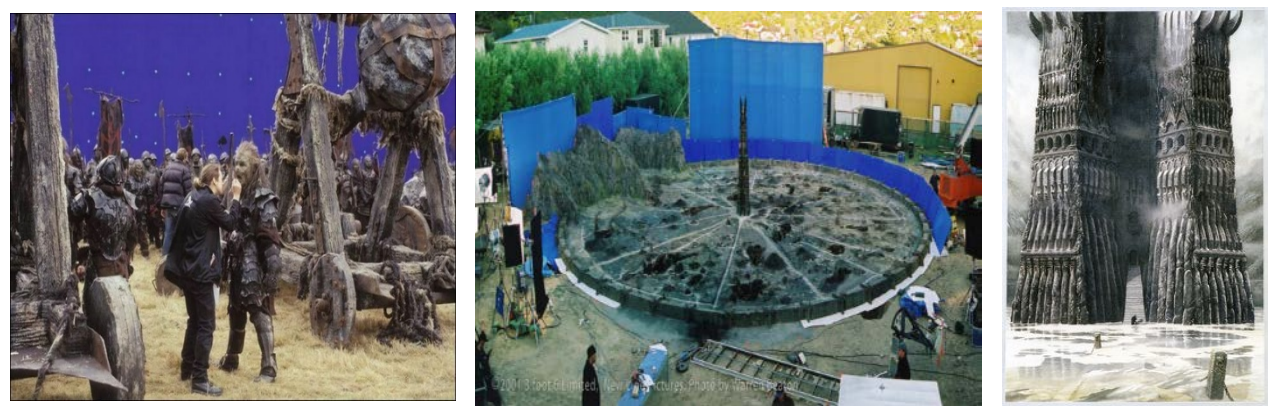
Lee and Howe were brought on to the pre-production of the films in the late 90s. By that time, director Peter Jackson had familiarized himself with their work, which had been hanging in his office for years even before the pre-production stage of the film. The "concept art" provided by Lee and Howe for The Lord of the Rings was in itself a masterpiece, as well as the foundation for some of the most detailed and sculpted movie sets ever built.



Alan Lee (Left)
John Howe (Right)



This concept art influenced both production of costume and weapon design in the films in addition to buildings, houses and landscapes.



The Lord of the Rings' perhaps most timeless production design is of Hobbiton, also known as The Shire. Over a year of pre-production construction, after nearly two decades worth of sketches, proves the superiority of the Hobbiton concept before and after its creation.



The Music

A study of the music used in The Lord of the Rings (Adams, 2011) highlights the outstanding musical achievement created by Howard Shore. Adams explains in a brief essay how the music composition of Shore compliments the story of the ring:

"If scores can be said to have a central theme then this minor-moded, time-weary wisp is it. The melody is heard whenever the One Ring changes hands or marks significant progress in its journey. The theme rises and falls in a slow breath-like pattern that serves to anthropomorphize the Ring's power while creating its circular shape."

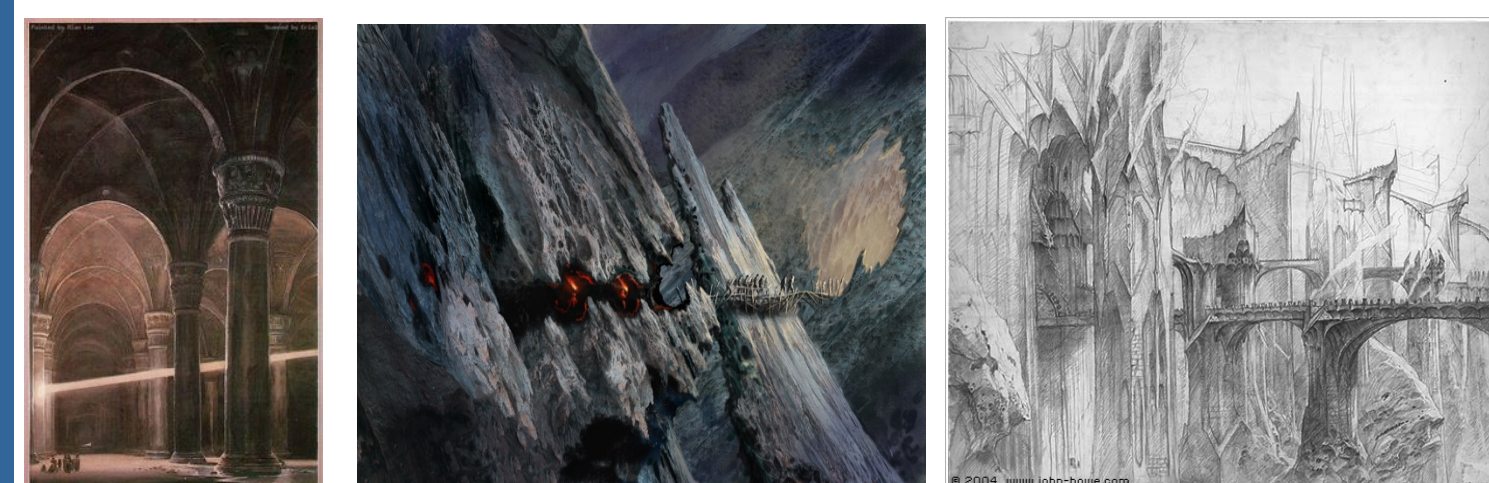
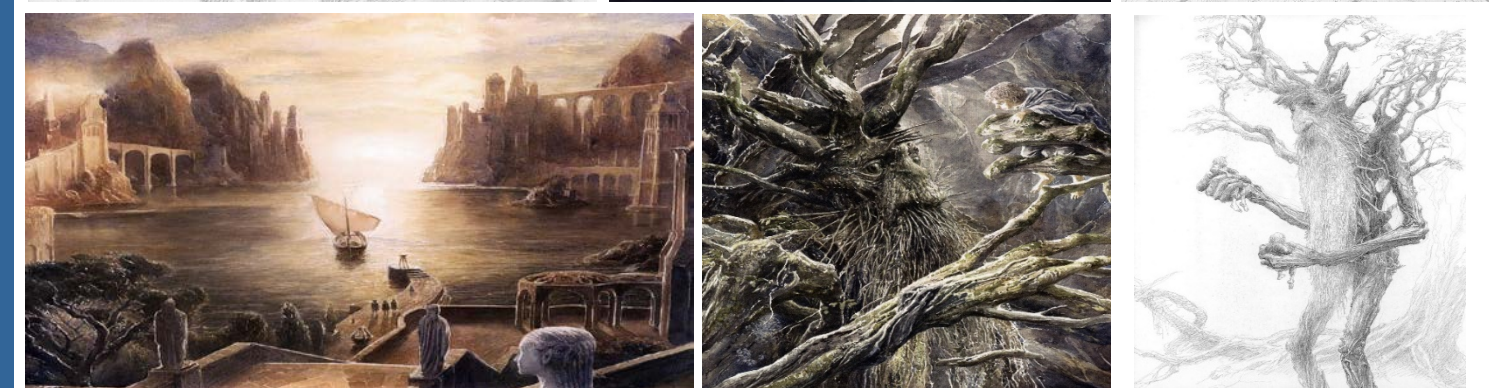
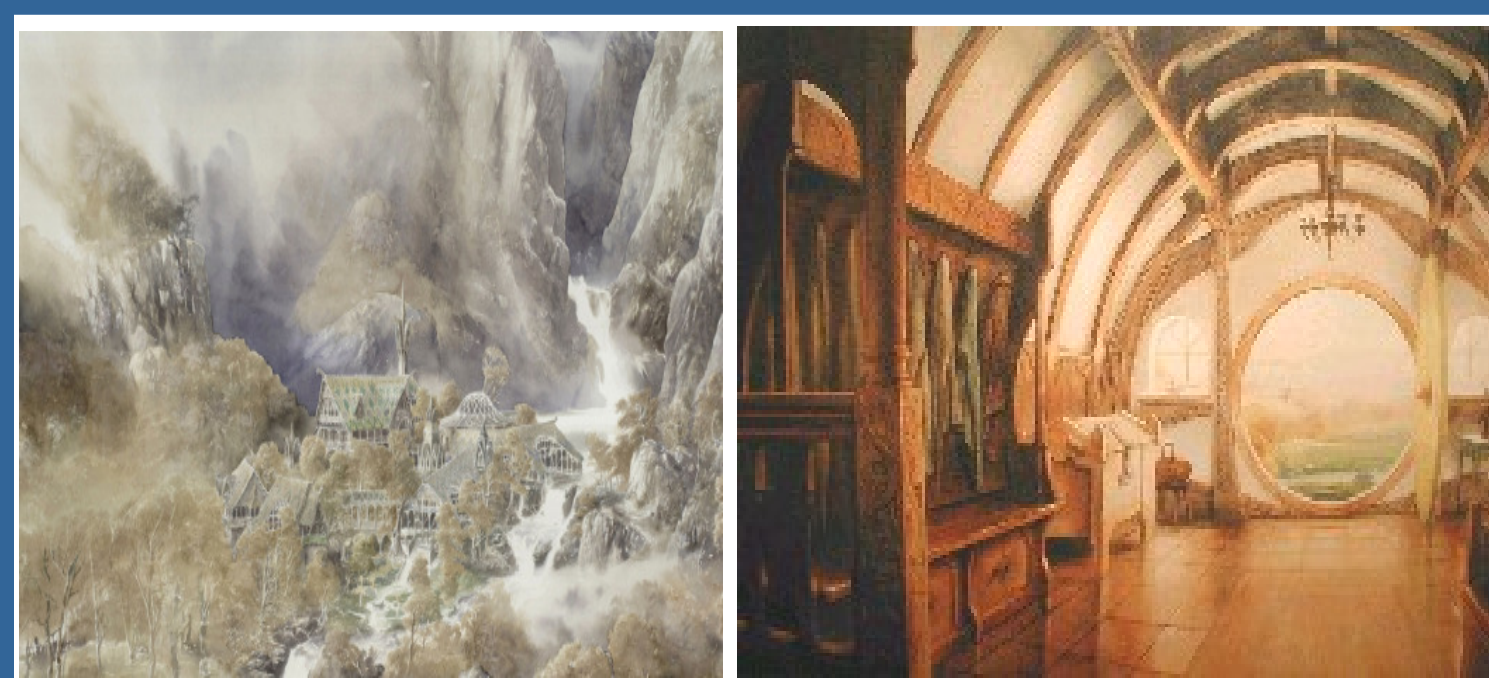
The Lord of the Rings symphony orchestra led by Howard Shore



A text written by Estelle R. Jorgensen goes on to compare the work of Shore on the film to that of the great German composer, Richard Wagner. These two points are important to the central theme of this research because they present, in short, a version of fine art. Additionally, Shore said in an interview that much of the Lord of the Rings music was done in operatic fashion.

Many classical artists created their fine arts based on a potent theme such as love and loss. As the quote above mentions, The Lord of the Rings soundtrack was based on the power and duplicity of the ring. Because Shore had such a powerful theme he was able to lay the foundation for arguably the best and most memorable soundtrack of our generation.

Adams describes in his essay the detail and concentration to finely tune this music so that it perfectly fits the mastery of Tolkien's story.



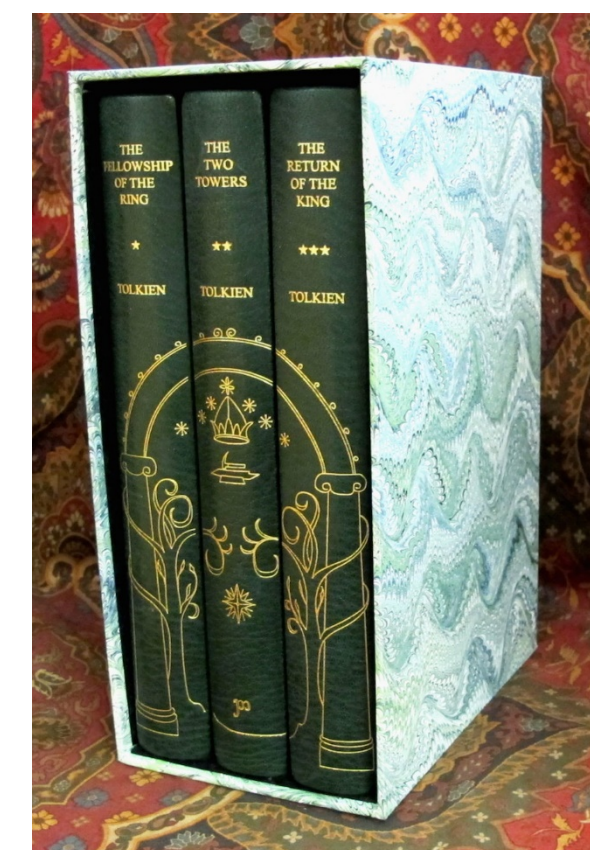
The Writing

J.R.R. Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings are product of a lifetime's work. Tolkien began writing as a young man and continued throughout his time as a professor at Oxford. The books, layered rich in mythological, spiritual and historical influence, represent the epitome of fine art. Some of Tolkien's great influences include Beowulf, William Shakespeare's Richard II, and the poetry of William Blake. (Scarf 2013).



Conclusion

Given the observation of this study, it is clear that The Lord of the Rings trilogy embodies all of the major characteristics of fine arts, clearly shown through its literature, musical score and esthetic beauty.



References

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