

ENGL 479D, University of Maryland
Christopher Crane
chipcrane90@gmail.com

Art Project

Due: 8 Dec (2nd-to-last day of our class)

Length & Scope: Variable, dependent on the idea you are seeking to capture with your project

Yes, that's right...an art project. Since Tolkien responds imaginatively to literature, Truth, human nature, myth, and the modern world around us with the stories and poems we've been reading all semester, I would like each of you to respond to *them* with something imaginative of your own.

Prepare and present (either to me and ideally to the class, if time permits and you are willing) a project which offers an aesthetic (i.e. artistic) response to something from the course. This response can take the form of a painting, a poster, a 3-D/sculpture, a song, a creative written work, a dramatic or video presentation, a work of graphic art, a dance, or some other expression (clear it with me first).

The "something from the course" might be a single scene in one of the books, a specific character, a relationship (like Arwen and Aragorn—presented so subtly in LOTR you barely notice it, yet their love for one another runs so deep), a landscape, a chapter, or an overarching theme. Good candidates for the subject of your project are similar to those for a paper. The difference is that you're responding more with the heart, intuition, and imagination than with logic, reasoning, and argument as you do in a paper.

I am not prescribing a minimum length for these, but I expect you to do a thorough, careful job on whatever project you take on. I will grade them somewhat on artistic merit but even more on the specificity and complexity of the moment or piece in Tolkien's work you choose, the genuine effort you make to express your insight into the work, and the imagination involved in your response. Humor is acceptable, but it should still be a genuinely creative response and not mere mockery or flippancy.

I recommend you run your ideas by me first.