



# *A Visit To The Shire*

*Jerry Grasso*



Jerry Grasso Visual Arts



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## Welcome to Middle Earth!

At the end of October, 2018, my wife, Jayne, and I visited the Hobbiton movie set situated on a family run farm near Matamata, in Waikato, New Zealand. As a fan of Peter Jackson's "Lord of the Rings" films, I wanted to visit as many of the filming locations as time permitted. Hobbiton was an example. Jayne, however, had never even seen one of the movies, and wasn't quite sure of the value of spending the time and the money to visit a place she had little interest in seeing. On top of all of this, the day we arrived at the movie set, it was literally pouring rain as we entered the lot. Suddenly, the rains passed and we were left with broken clouds to view the magnificent grounds, "mecca" for a fan of the films.

But what we found most amazing in this bucolic

setting was the attention to detail! Peter Jackson made it easy to fantasize about what the Hobbits found important and necessary in daily life, right down to the ornaments in their window decorations!

Traveling throughout New Zealand, it became apparent to me the reason why the films' locations were chosen. The beauty and mystery that surrounded us truly gave us a glimpse into the fantasy world of the Hobbits in Middle Earth!

I hope you will enjoy your stroll through this mythological setting as you become transported back in time to the fairy tale land of Middle Earth! And remember, Mount Doom is always nearby!







*Shíre 1...*





*Shire 2...*





*Shire 3...*





*Shire 4...*







*Shire 5...*





*Shire 6...*







*Shire 7...*







*Shire 8...*





*Shire 9...*





*Shire 10...*





*Shire 11...*





*Shire 12...*





*Shire 13...*





*Shire 14...*





*Shire 15...*







*Shire 16...*





*Shire 17...*







*Shire 18...*





*Shire 19...*





*Shire 20...*







*Shire 21...*





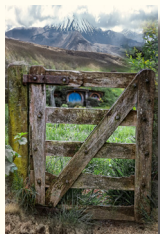
*Shire 22...*





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# My Artistic Mission

*Child-like wonder and inquisitiveness are qualities frequently put aside once we become adults. We tend to slowly become sterilized by our right-or-wrong kind of world which too often has too little time to explore the what-if's and the what-could-be's. I believe we all need to re-connect with these qualities to re-enrich our lives. Animation innovator, Walt Disney, recognized this and tried to bring back the power and importance of imagination. Inspired by his spirit, my mission therefore is to encourage the use of viewer imagination. My work attempts to explore and suggest what often lies hidden within the personalities and mysteries present in the world that was, and the world that is around us.*

*For me, my photography is not so much about the decisive moment. Rather, it is about creating a place with a sense of history with an aura of mystery. It is the starting point for my artistic journey, not the destination. My final images attempt to reflect the emotional, mind's eye after-image that was captured by both the eye and the heart.*

*My hope is that my images will serve as a springboard into inventiveness and exploration with the hopes of awakening the viewer's inner child. I will try to do whatever I can to make the viewer linger longer in front of my works, to ignite my viewer's imaginative response through discovery and inquisitiveness.*







*Jerry bought his first SLR camera in 1975 and taught himself how to use it during trips through the Orient and hiking the Appalachian trail in Maine and New Hampshire. But it wasn't until 2002 that photography became his passion.*

*By 2004, Jerry became serious about developing his art. After upgrading his equipment, he began taking formal instruction in compositional techniques. That was the year he started his photography blog to document his artistic progress. By 2008, Jerry took the first of his courses with photographer Mallorie Ostrowitz who opened his photographic eyes to the artistic world of abstraction.*

*Also in 2008, Jerry spent a day of digital darkroom and printing training, one-on-one, with Michael Reichmann, the founder of the Luminous Landscape website.*

*In 2010, Jerry attended a John Paul Caponigro creativity workshop. John Paul gave him the courage to continuously push beyond the boundaries of his comfort zone in order to sustain growth as an artist. He was also personally selected to become a member of his Next Steppers artistic community.*

*Currently, Jerry's photography is only the starting point for his visual art. He prefers to work in a story or series, rather than only with separate images.*

Website:

[www.jerrygrasso.com](http://www.jerrygrasso.com)





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