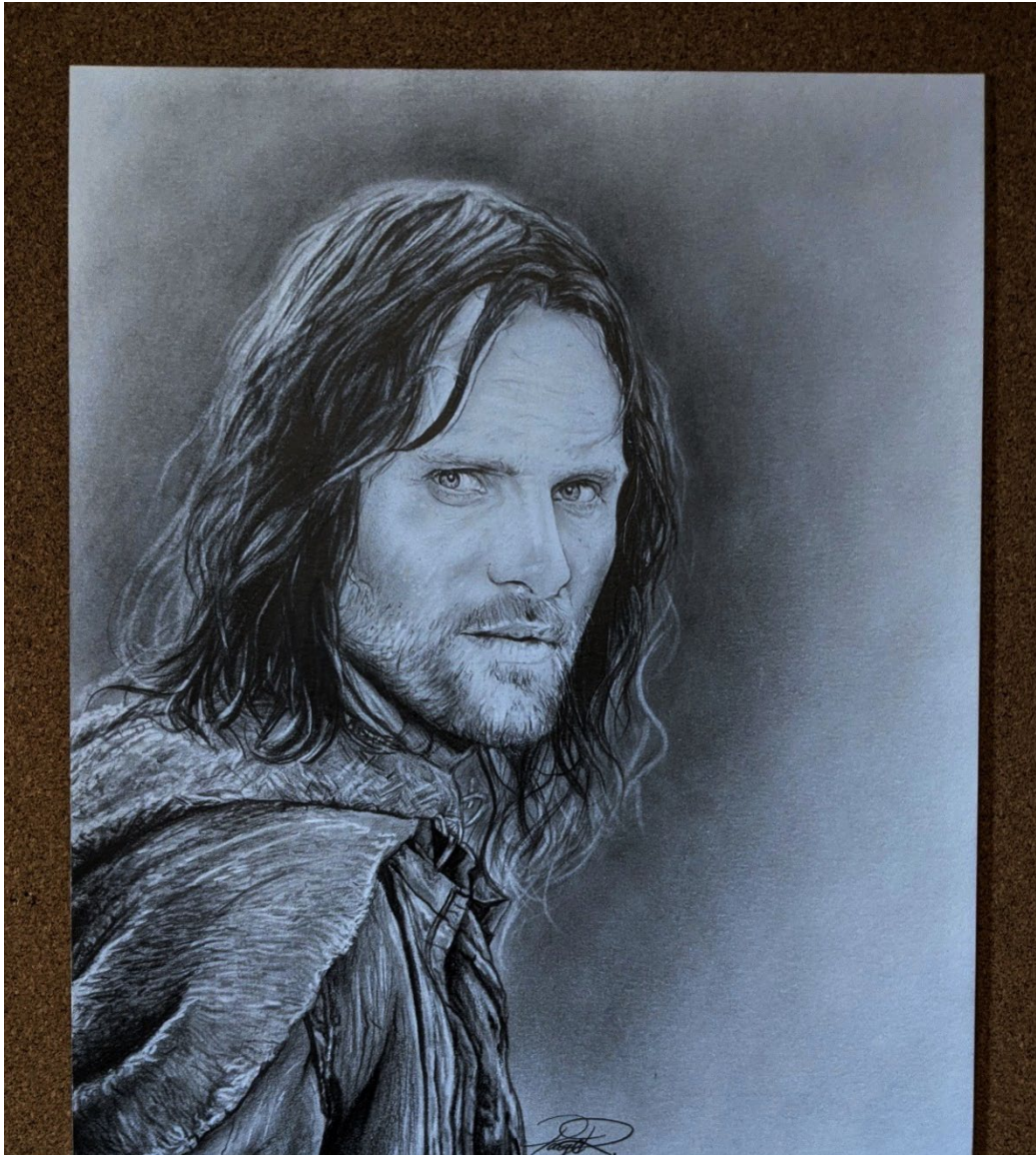
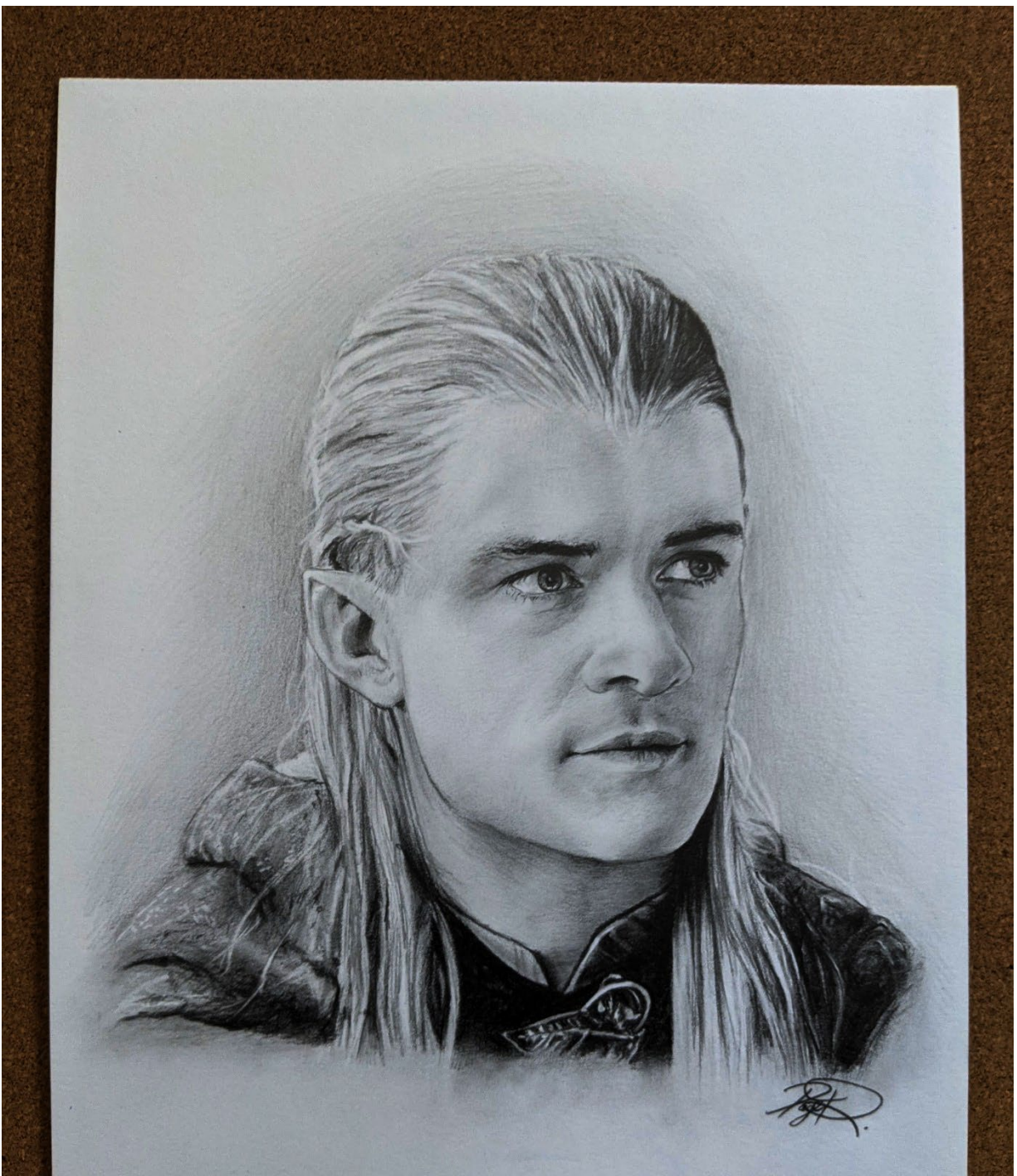


## “Middle Earth Portraits”



Aragorn throughout the story learned to accept who he was. This trilogy tells not only about Frodo and his journey but also about Aragorn's transformation from ranger to king. This first came to Aragorn at Boromir's death. Boromir tells him right before he dies, "I would have followed you my brother, my captain, my king." This makes Aragorn realize to accept his role as King of Men. Throughout the rest of the story, he gains confidence and self-awareness through his courageous support of Frodo and the rest of the fellowship, along with his love for Arwen as well. Aragorn especially near the end of *The Return of the King*, he steps forward in a kingly manner leading his people, which he may have never done without this journey. This drawing was done in graphite pencils and has a common theme through my portraits of having a "cloud" or soft "glow" around the portrait. In each drawing that I do, I try to achieve complete likeness and bring them to life. For Aragorn, I tried to show his ranger and king in one. So I tried to bring that out from his face and specifically his eyes. For all of my portraits, eyes are what I like to focus on to bring the heart and soul of the person out in the drawing. Using a darker shade of graphite in the background to help bring out the highlights in his eyes, facial hair, and hair.



Legolas learns about the power of friendship and accepting others. Legolas is an Elf, and elves do not get along with dwarves since there was so much mistrust between them. Legolas and Gimli spoke quite defensively of their people. Not much is shown in the film *The Fellowship of the Ring*, on how they began to bond, as there was in the book. Of course, it is greatly shown that Legolas is not too fond of Gimli, and Gimli is not so fond of him. But in the book their conversations, specifically about the creation of the Balrog not being the dwarves, both of them agreed. It seems that the hardship of Moria, facing that exact evil in question, has softened both of their hearts. From then on Legolas sees Gimli as a great friend and is willing to die at his side. This drawing was done in graphite pencils and has a common theme through my portraits of having a “cloud” or soft “glow” around the portrait. In each drawing that I do, I try to achieve complete likeness and bring them to life. For Legolas, I focused on his eyes, elf ears, and his facial features as I feel like those are most recognizable. I decided to take a picture from a scene while watching the movie to use, to try and capture what he may be thinking through his expression. I have always found that much is said in his eyes. So I focused greatly on that to bring him to life.



Gimli also learned about the power of friendship and accepting others. As Gimli being a dwarf, he didn't get along with Legolas. Gimli spoke quite defensively of his people. Like with Legolas, in their conversations, specifically about the creation of the Balrog not being the dwarves, both of them agreed. It seems that the hardship of Moria, facing that exact evil in question, has softened both of their hearts. Gimli was also willing to die alongside Legolas. One of my favorite scenes in the LOTR trilogy is between Legolas and Gimli. Gimli: I never thought I'd die fighting side-by-side with an Elf. Legolas: What about side-by-side with a friend? This scene definitely shows how close they have come through friendship, and puts their differences aside. This drawing was done in graphite pencils and has a common theme through my portraits of having a "cloud" or soft "glow" around the portrait. In each drawing that I do, I try to achieve complete likeness and bring them to life. For Gimli, I also took a picture from a direct scene while watching the movie. This is when Haldir and his company aim their arrows at the Fellowship. Gimli's facial expression says everything, so I decided to draw it. For Gimli his eyes and beard were my main focus, for I feel they are important for his character.

