





Welcome to the Colourful world of Lamber de Bie

s a wedding specialist I become the On other days I will compose a classical translator for the bride and help her express herself in the language of flowers. I take her dreams, passions and ideas and wind them into bouquets, garlands, arrangements and posies. Only she knows what is perfect for her when we stumble upon it after much discussion. I am the interpreter of her dreams and as a florist I relish this challenge of making each wedding a unique experience.

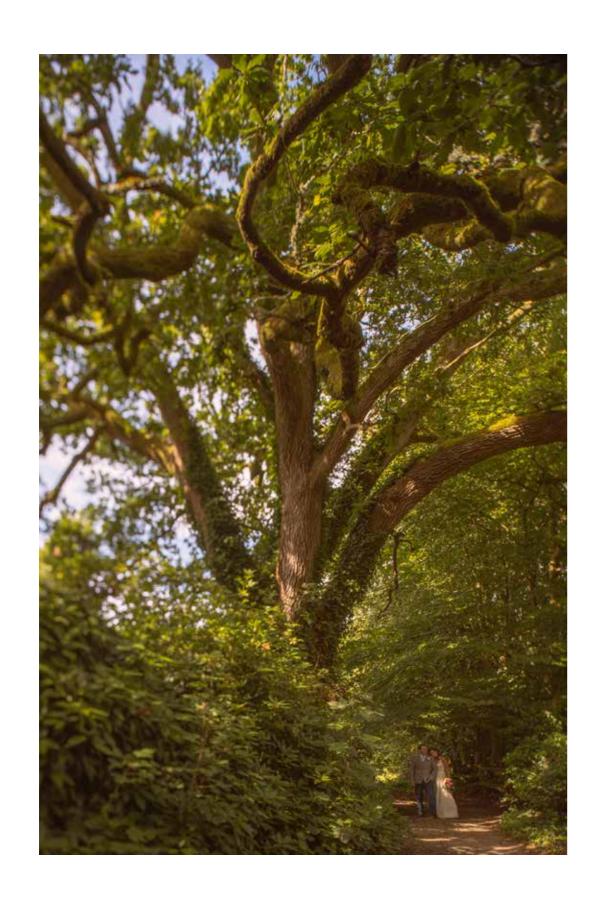
Sometimes it is a romantic wedding on an island castle where wild roses tangle with ivy in whimsical china teacups, and delicate grasses and unstructured bouquets create the ambience of charm and warmth.

creation of white roses laced with lily of the valley. Such flowers look serene, classical and almost French in their taste. Clean lines and subtle details reveal a timeless elegance.

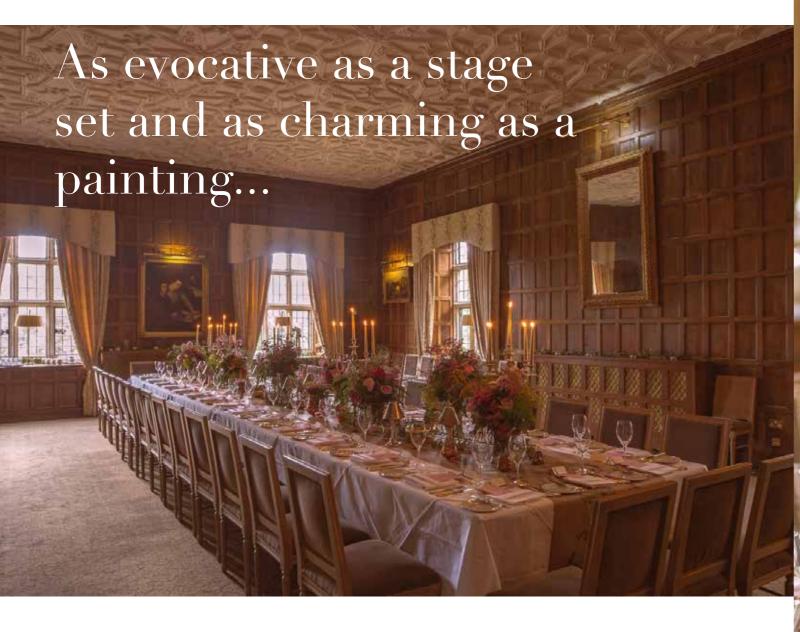
Occassionally I meet a bride who has anything from St. Petersburg to the Electric picnic in her mind and then all bets are off. These flowers will be fun and eclectic and the colours will have a fresh bold note about them. It is all about the magic of atmosphere and flowers are the perfect way to make these dreams come Often the place will dictate the style of flowers. A country house, with ancient oak trees and beech walkways becomes the style guide for the

Wild, natural and rambling with the slight structure of walled herb gardens and wandering peacocks. Indulgent flowers conjure up summer days and wild flower meadows.

So, mine is a world of colour but also one of ambience, atmosphere, structure, form and endless imagination. A theatre of the soul...







Previous page: Loose and naturalThis page: Banquet table inhand tied bridal bouquet.Waterford Castle with a selectionThe Flowers are carefully collectedof summer flowers in soft pinksand arranged as if they are casually
picked from the garden.and soft greens.

Opposite: Roses, Phlox, Hydrangea, Astilbe, Alchemilla, Statice, Limonium, Wild green Ivy, soft Asparagus fern, Eucalypthus





A few last minute finishing touches...

This page: Table display in the banquetting Hall at Waterford Castle being checked by the bride Opposite: Flowers with soft pinks and greens using Garden Roses, Ferm, Astilbe and Alchemilla.





wasn't really sure how a professional into details. I never miss a genuine opportunity humming at a Retail excellence event and we planted the seed for a great relationship. were all about to listen to the keynote speaker, Suzanne Jackson. We all wanted to have this magical myth of blogging demystified for us, anxious to see how we could best use it for our but completely professional approach to On one of her Kilkenny trips when we were business. I suppose what I didn't expect was things, it's very like the approach in Lamber someone with such personal charm.

Suzanne won the room over immediately, she was funny, extremely professional and knew her subject so well that we were all in awe of how easy she made everything look but I was under no illusions about how hard working she was. I was sitting beside Sharon McCabe of pharmacy fame and she said "You have to meet Suzanne after, she's amazing". I spoke to Suzanne and Dylan (who was equally charming) and they mentioned they were getting married, not for a year and a half so were too busy now to go

blogger came into being, or what so handed her the first edition of this Magazine they would be like. The audience was full of my images, ideas and approach. I had

> I immediately felt they were the kind of people I could connect with, I loved their laid back de Bie Flowers. Later, there were a couple of secret meetings in Kilkenny and Dublin (as she wanted to keep her wedding plans under wraps until she chose to unwrap them herself). When she visited my shop in Kilkenny she instagrammed a shot of the inside of the shop in

Kilkenny, which is quite distinctive. Immediately I had people in touch to tell me where the glamorous Suzanne Jackson was. I had to feign ignorance and pretend I wasn't there but said I was delighted she was shopping at Lamber de Bie flowers.

really getting into the glorious details of her wedding flowers she had a luxury night in the Newpark Hotel and Zuni restaurant gave us a special corner table to go through the details. It's not really that surprising how well people look after Suzanne, it's a bit like having Jackie Kennedy arrive in your restaurant, you have to give her space but can't keep your eyes off her at the same time, I felt quite the celebrity when meeting with her in person.



Glorious Details



It's great to have a bride like Suzanne who has such a great vision of what she wants. It was to be a fairy tale wedding from the beginning, cascading roses and hydrangae with accents of rose gold to illuminate the blooms. I suggested the avalanche roses to give her classical theme a twist and we decided to go with off white. It was to be a portrait of elegance but with a natural cascading structure.

Soft pinks were introduced in the beautiful generous form of peony roses, astilbe in dusty pink and more wonderful pink avalanche roses. Wonderful classic Summer blossoms but given a natural unstuctured twist.

The bouquet itself I made slightly larger in scale to fit with Suzanne's elegant stature and her mesmerising dress. Her idea of the single theme throughout the flowers in the church, bouquet, tables and arches really made the overall look so sophisticated. It really looked as though the wedding was in a

beautiful Summer garden, laden with heavy late Summer blossoms, wafting and trailing around the interiors. Suzanne had created a classical white interior space which made such a beautiful foil for the flowers, they really took on classical proportions as their profile and structure were highlighted against the white fabric draped walls.

Her wedding arches were used in a beautiful, almost classical Roman way. I made one for outside the church entrance in Skerries, which set the tone for Suzanne and Dylan when they arrived, the guests had a taste of the that was to come. Inside the portico of the church was another arch whose incense perfumed the church vestibule. The final cascading archway was to define the area of the hotel where the main event took place. It announced in no uncertain terms that once you pass under this archway of flowers you are entering the magical world of Dylan and Suzanne Jackson.















Both page:: Arrangements of Indigo Hydrangea and Delphinia set the scene for a luxurious wedding in Waterford Castle



The Bridal party sets out...

This page: A Cascade of white Lilies on the stairs **Previous:** White Flowers festoon the doorway - NAMES NAMES NAMES To a Garden Ceremony...



This page: Pillars of XXXX in homely tin Buckets
Opposite: The Groom awaits and then the ceremony begins under the Huppa surrounded by Friends and Family



ell me about flowers in Holland?

When I was growing up in Holland I always remember my mother having a bouquet of flowers on her weekly shopping list, just like bread or milk. They would always be seasonal and sometimes she would buy them in the market and sometimes in a florist.

What is your earliest flower memory?

My dad growing red gladioli in the garden.

When did you decide to make a career of floristry?

I was going to train as a chef or a florist then an aunt of mine said that if you are a chef you will always be cooking when your friends are having fun.

Where do you get your inspiration from?

Travel, architecture, contemporary art, particularly pop art.

What is your favourite colour?

Orange but that's perhaps because I am Dutch.

What's your favourite season?

Spring, January the 1st because all the hard work of a florist at Christmas is done and the first shoots of green are coming up in the garden.

Favourite flower?

It changes all the time, tulips in spring but I really like flowers that are only available when they are in season.

What do you like about the Irish landscape?

After 20 years it is still so beautiful, the ditches and the luxury of the space for hedgerows, unlike Holland.

When you first opened your shops in Ireland what was your concept?

Before in flower shops there was a small front shop and a big workshop in the back. I wanted to change this, like restaurants brought their kitchens to the front, so that people could see us making the bouquets. Also my designer at the time said that the shop should look more like a Prada shop than a conventional flower shop, that was very exciting.

When a bride first meets you what happens?

Well we chat and I discover a bit about her personality, what kind of a day she dreams about, it's mainly listening but she will usually leave with more questions than answers. I like to give brides time to discover what would make their wedding day magical. The more time I spend with them the more personal their flowers will be.

What happens next?

I ask them to look at lots of things to get ideas. International websites, blogs, the best florist's in the world such as Daniel Ost, fashion and interiors ideas that they like, their favourite



film. A wedding is a kind of theatre - and the couples choices give a great insight into their personality. Sometimes they make up a moodboard or pinterest sheet of all their favourite influences of anything from food to flowers.

How do you start with wedding flowers?

I have so much experience of seasonal flowers that I instinctively know what will work best in each bouquet. After 20 years I can read and interpret better the bride's particular taste and wishes. Her personality and sense of humour – these will all feed into the final wedding bouquet.

with a Dutch Master

Is the wedding bouquet the most important thing?

Yes, to a bride the bouquet and the dress are the stars. They see it as the expression of themselves, a personal statement. It is their favourite colours, shapes but more importantly emotion. Is it going to be a romatic bouquet, a classic one? Some brides go for avant garde while others prefer a more structured bouquet. It is very meaningful to the bride but it is really useful for the florist as the bouquet will usually dictate the style and colour palette of the other wedding flower arrangements.

What is the most unusual wedding bouquet you have made?

For a Dutch bride, it was a woven sphere of vine branches with lotus flowers through it and she put her arm through - it was influenced by Japanese sculpture.

What remains always popular with brides? White roses.

Do any grooms have a say in the flowers?

In Holland the tradition is for the groom to arrive on the morning of the wedding with the brides bouquet, that he has selected especially for her.

Why do you think weddings in Ireland are so important?

They are still a traditional family event where the bride and groom publicly declare love and commitment and where the families get to know one another.

How do you think weddings in Ireland have changed over the years?

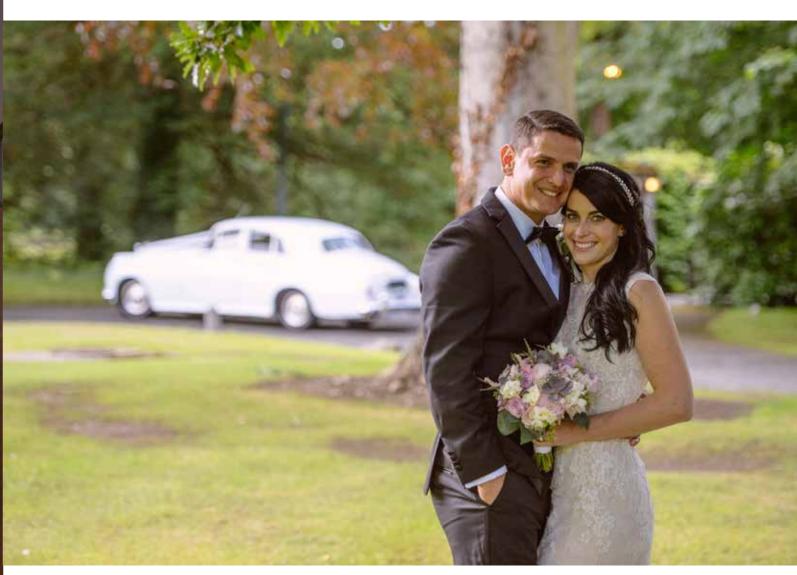
The bride is much more involved now than she would have been before, she also has a much better idea of what she wants from social media, magazines and wedding fairs. I am also constantly on the look out for new blooms and different trends so I find every wedding a unique challenge.













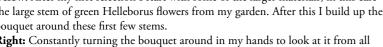






the large stem of green Helleborus flowers from my garden. After this I build up the bouquet around these first few stems.

Right: Constantly turning the bouquet around in my hands to look at it from all directions, this is when the bouquet is coming to life and it is the bouquet itself that will point out to me what I need to add and where. All I need to do now is to look at what's happening in my hands and react with whatever flower or foliage is





Left: Before I apply the last finishing touches there's someone looking for a little attention. This gives me the time to have another look

over my work.

Right: Before I can be happy that I'm finished I always inspect every detail, every flower, flower petal, leaf, and twig. After all these years I still love every bouquet I

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **ROSS COSTIGAN**

Left: A bridal bouquet should be reflective of the bride that's going to wear it as well as

Below: The art director tries to make off







Being inspired by Ireland's wildness has been a unique journey for me. So many beautiful arrangements are found in the natural landscape, like objects trouvée. Colour palettes that I use are those that occur naturally in a hedgerow or meadow, subdued yet sublime.

I love shapes and silhouettes that mimic the landscape; ancient

I love shapes and silhouettes that mimic the landscape; ancient windworn trees and undulating hills. Textures that excite me are those formed by the rugged weather and ocean winds.

The ancient Irish word for ivy - eidhneach, describes the darkest of greens; eidheánghlas clambers up medieval castle walls and shrouds grand country houses. Its untameable nature is a

wonderful structure to represent freedom and abundance and brings all the wisdom that ancient forests speak.

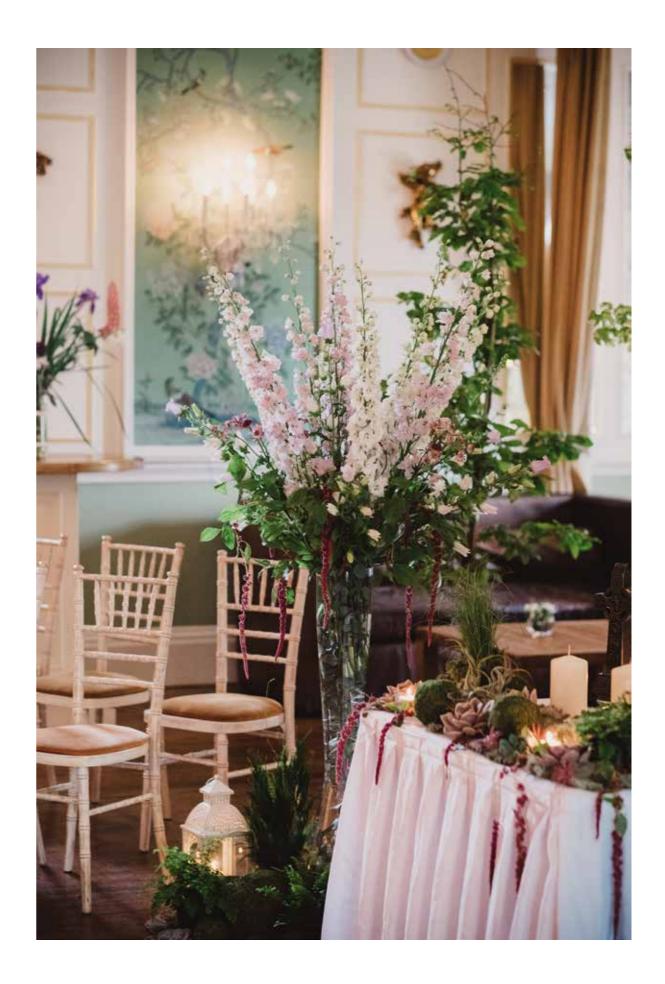
Other elements in the Irish landscape which inspire me are rock pools, with their shimmering pinks and purples; peatlands, which bring purples, greens and browns together in a unique colour combination; Summer meadows, with brights scattered amongst rich greens.

Perhaps the most magical of all are ancient Irish forests, where sessile oaks, medieval ferns and trickling streams are silenced by a rich carpet of moss. Being surrounded by such an inspirational and charming natural world here in Ireland allows me to create arrangements that are authentic, wild, harmonious and untamed in their simplicity and elegance.

Lamber de Bie, 2016



This page The Ceremony and Dining room at Castle Durrow were decorated with a selection of potted Irish plants and mosses and ferns and we created the ambiance of a soft Irish woodland inside the comfort of the dining room.













Lamber de Bie

Inside cover photographs
and opposite page by
Nick O'Keeffe

Acknowledgements

"I would like to thank all the people in the wedding industry that I have met over the years, many of whom have become close friends.

And a big thank you to all the brides past and future that have given me the trust to look after all the flowers for their most special day."

Lamber de Bie, Master Florist

