



BEYOND DÉCOR

Concepts in floral art for interiors.

LINES AND CIRCLES To create the wall art at left, Tomas wove willow branches, dried grasses, and silver wire into an existing framework of metal basketry before adding the muscari, still attached to their bulbs. Likewise, the wood sculpture above inspired him to add flowers in water tubes to it, playing with the contrast between static and organic lines. "Creativity is not only to invent new things, but also to see a new potential in existing objects," says Tomas.

Floral design by Tomas de Bruyne Photography by Claude Smekens

For more information about Tomas de Bruyne, see page 41.



THE MAGIC BOX Presented with a set of copper-framed display boxes with glass panes, Tomas saw the opportunity to create a compelling illusion: long branches appear to pass invisibly from inside one box to the next, cutting a diagonal line through a woody world of ferns and phalaenopsis orchids, like fallen trees on the forest floor.

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GLORIOUS Above, a bright, energetic medley of flowers, vines, and branches bursts from a teal-blue vase. At right, Tomas stacked birch rounds on top of a vase that he had covered with strips of veneer, to give it a harmonizing texture. Both designs feature a reddish-orange gloriosa that is a new variety named after Tomas de Bruyne himself. With firm, finely fringed petals and pale green leaves, the gloriosa spills from the wooden structure with the ends of the flexible stems hidden in water tubes.





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RIDING THE WAVE At right, a bright circle of roses echoes the shape of a wooden wall sculpture, while the sculpture itself is much like a garden rose, carved with a swirling pattern reminiscent of the interior petals on the roses Tomas has chosen for his circle. These include classic “quartered” garden roses and red garden roses with a green “eye” of thicker, leaf-like petals. Repetition of form, with contrasting yet harmonizing colors, is the key to this striking design.



FERTILE CRESCENT Above, rounds of bamboo, painted white and dangling from nearly invisible monofilament, lend a lightness and grace to this long-lasting work of floral art. Likewise, the boat-shaped structure of green branches seems to float, a picture of perfect balance, perched on slender twin stems emerging from a sturdy base. Filling the boat is a mass of blooming white azaleas (*Rhododendron simmsii* ‘Mont Blanc’). The many greenish-white buds on the living plants will open over time. For now, bamboo rounds join the open blooms in a pattern of froth overlaid with geometry, white against the small glossy ovals of the leaves.



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TWIN FLAMES Above, Tomas found a beautiful way to emphasize the long, smooth stems of French tulips: he fashioned twin structures out of fresh, flexible willow, each flowing upward from an iron base, and placed the tulips inside glass cylinders hidden inside the willow sculptures. The effect is an ideal complement to the artwork behind them.



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ON THE VINE Have you ever seen rambling or climbing roses dripping down a fence on long, vine-like stems? Such was the inspiration Tomas took for the design at left—a spare, stripped-down version of flowering vines to suit the subdued, streamlined modernity of the room, with its stark yet beautiful gray shelves. He created the “vines” using thick metal wire wound about with thinner wire for a minutely spiraling pattern and texture. For the flowers, he picked *Begonia elatior* flowers from plants and wired them directly onto the metal vines. “These are very long-lasting flowers, even without a water source,” says Tomas. The beautiful sea-green ceramic pots could be seen as standing in for foliage; their color value and the texture of the bas-relief are well matched to the creamy peach of the begonia flowers.

NATURAL ELEGANCE At right, open-topped terrariums hold nothing more than twigs and spray orchids in water tubes. One of these would be stunning by itself, but a collection of five, in two different sizes, has stunning impact. 🌿



Tomas de Bruyne

Widely published and internationally renowned, Belgian floral designer Tomas de Bruyne is the author of more than 15 books, on his own and in collaboration with Per Benjamin of Sweden and Max van de Sluis of the Netherlands, his partners in the design team Life3. He is the

principal instructor for the European Master Certification program, a comprehensive curriculum offered by Tomas in partnership with Hitomi Gilliam AIFD.

Some of the photos seen here are also included in the book, *Interior Emotions* by Life3, published in 2014 by the Belgian firm Stichting Kunstboek, available for pur-

chase on the Life3 website, along with other books, including *Passionate Emotions*—the perfect inspiration for Valentine’s Day!

For more on Tomas, Life3, and the EMC program, visit these websites:

www.tomasdebruyne.com
www.EMCprogram.com
www.life3.net