

EXPOSED

AMY KOPYCINSKI Principal, Merveille Flowers, Events She never set out to be a floral designer, but Amy Kopycinski is right where she is supposed to be. The Texas native knew nothing about flowers when she started working part-time at a floral boutique while a student at Southern Methodist University. “I caught on very quickly when it came to producing an arrangement, sculpting the design, and creating combinations of colors and textures,” she says. Kopycinski moved to New York City after graduation in 2001, and there she began her professional



career as a designer, working for some of the city’s premier florists and event firms. Four years later, she returned to Texas to start her full-service custom design and event company, Merveille (which means “grand” in French). Together with a team of skilled designers, Kopycinski creates stunning scenes for weddings and parties, incorporating organic elements like berries, bark, and vibrant leaves. The 27-year-old strives to marry every design with the event venue, season, and client’s expectations. “I like to let the flowers speak for themselves and make it look natural, as if you just went out and picked something from the garden,” she says. “Regardless of whether an event is modern or romantic, casual or elegant, I simply want it to be grand.” **L. Hoppe**

Who are your biggest influences? My sister. She’s my confidante and has always understood me. **Who are your fantasy dinner party guests?** Gandhi—for some moral advice. Anna Wintour—doesn’t every girl want her at the dinner table? Leonardo da Vinci—I’d ask him to shed some light on *The Da Vinci Code*. Chris Farley—he’d be bound to make us all laugh. **At age 7, you wanted to be?** A little less shy. **If you were an inventor, what you would invent?** A working version of Willy Wonka’s glass elevator. **Who’s your favorite fictional character?** Napoleon Dynamite. **What inspires you?** Seasons changing. **What is your most treasured possession?** Apple, my half-dachshund, half-Yorkie—therefore a “Dorkie.” **What is the greatest love of your life?** Desserts of all kinds, but ice cream tops the list. Anything chocolate. **Which words or phrases do you most overuse?** “That’s funny.” I often respond that way instead of actually laughing. **What’s your favorite flower?** Ranunculus. They are sexy, yet whimsical and fun. I also like the name.

Photography by Michael Thad Carter