

By Amanda Bernocco

Whenever he designs a floral bouquet, Arthur Golabek wants you to really see every flower — down to each petal, leaf, and stem.

His unique eye for designing with flowers is why the Sag Harbor resident is regarded as one of the most coveted wedding pros on the South Fork.

“I love showing the couple the final product and seeing them smile,” Golabek said. “...It’s so emotional. That’s the most rewarding part.”

Golabek, who grew up in Poland, compares flowers to crayons. His favorite bouquets include lots of different shades.

“Using all colors of flowers is a freedom,” he said. “Just like in painting or drawing, you get to use all crayons in the box.”

He has been in the business for more than a decade. First there was a brief stint working in construction after arriving in the U.S. with his family when he was 17. Then, he found his passion first as a freelancer helping florists and companies arrange bouquets for weddings and other events.

Nearly three years ago his efforts blossomed into his own business, Arthur Golabek Flowers. He doesn’t have a brick-and-mortar shop, so most of his business comes by word of mouth or his Instagram account, @arthurgolabekflowers.

His floral designs follow the vision of the bride, but he admits he has a favorite: the lily-of-the-valley, a small, delicate white flower with a long stem. He said he loves its aesthetic and would incorporate it “in every single wedding” if he could.

Richard Udice, a veteran East Hampton designer, said Golabek’s appeal stems from his attention to detail, passion for his craft, and ability to make his clients’ dreams come to life.

“He’s quite artistic with everything he does,” said Udice, who has been working with Golabek for three years. “He is a perfectionist, which is what makes his bouquets so special.”

Engaged couples should reach out to Golabek at least several months to a year before the big day. At the first meeting, he interviews the lovebirds: he wants to know their vision, arrangements that have inspired them, and what color scheme they are planning. Ideas will start blooming in his head.

“I try to get a sense of what the couple is all about,” said Golabek, who designs bouquets for newlyweds of all ages.

He said he makes an effort to check out local farms in Bridgehampton, East Hampton, and Water Mill when he is hunting for flowers, but for those that are specific and harder-to-find, he visits the New York City Flower Market in Manhattan. He never orders them online and always selects the perfect blossoms for his arrangement.

in-person. He picks up the flowers only a day or two ahead of the wedding to ensure they are in impeccable shape.

Udice said in his years as a designer he's met very few people as meticulous as Golabek.

"You can tell that a lot of thought goes into each flower," Udice said.

Golabek said his favorite part is taking the time to pick out flowers to create an arrangement that exceeds his client's dreams.

"The whole process is beautiful," he said. "I love to be creative, and come up with ideas, and make drawings ... It's the best. It's what I love doing."