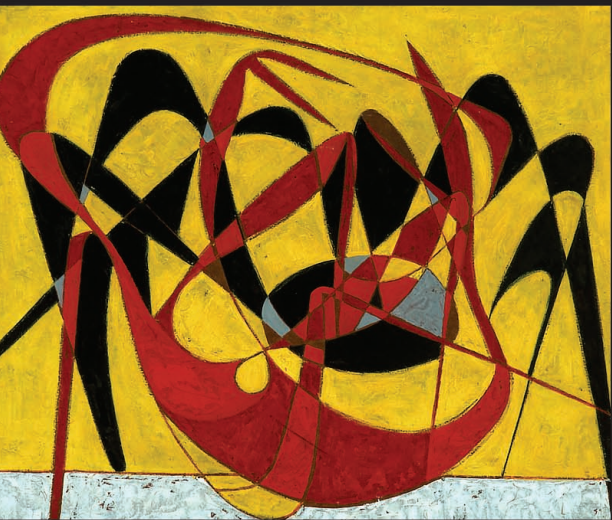


TEXAS MODERN ART



Seymour Fogel, "Elemental Force," c. 1945

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JUST SAY YES

"The two things people find most fascinating are marriages and divorces," Mike Bloomberg of Fort Worth said recently – and he should know. Since launching his proposal consulting business, An Exclusive Engagement, a year ago, Bloomberg has increasingly become known as "the marriage proposal guy."

It all started six years ago when Bloomberg, who has always been the "go-to guy" for romantic ideas among his friends, helped a pal arrange a creative (and successful) marriage proposal. "I thought, 'How fun would it be to do this for a living?'" Bloomberg says. That dream didn't materialize for five years, but when it did, it was a

hit. Bloomberg seems to have tapped into something that men desperately need when it comes to the ultimate romantic gesture...help.

When a new client comes to Bloomberg, they sit down for an hour or so and Bloomberg asks "a boatload" of questions. How did the couple meet? Have they taken any vacations together? What's her favorite color? and so on. In the initial session they start to formulate a plan. After that, Bloomberg is on hand via phone, email and text message to provide support and take care of the details until everything is final.

"The fun ones are the destination proposals," Bloomberg says, referring to two recent examples. In the first, Bloomberg's client surprised his fiancée-to-be with a waiting limo and a gorgeous gown. The couple arrived at a hotel in New York City, where they donned eveningwear and hit the town. He popped the question at Tiffany & Co. and presented a gorgeous engagement ring. The second took place in Washington, D.C. and involved a proposal in front of the Smithsonian's Hope Diamond. As expected, both women said yes.

Bloomberg's unique service has caught the attention of NBC, *D Weddings* and several high-end resorts and restaurants that like the idea of having an additional service to offer guests. As for Bloomberg himself, he's still a bachelor. And no, he doesn't have a dream proposal in mind – it will depend on his future fiancée. "I don't know who that person is yet," he says. Let's just say that when the time comes, Bloomberg will have one advantage few other men can boast – plenty of practice.

••Jenny Miller/www.anexclusiveengagement.com.

