

ANNEX

FLIGHT OF THE MOTH ORCHID



Flight of the Moth Orchid is a tribute to the *Phalaenopsis* orchid, a diverse genus whose floral form resembles that of a moth in flight. This new changing orchid display opens Orchid Haven, a brand-new space dedicated to orchids in the Cloud Forest cooled conservatory. In this display, more than 800 *Phalaenopsis* orchids of 17 taxa are showcased in a breathtaking “waterfall” of cascading blooms. The *Phalaenopsis* orchids on show have been carefully selected to show the distinct and occasionally dramatic characteristics that make it such a popular orchid among both breeders and orchid lovers alike, such as bright colours, peculiar patterns and markings, as well as floral mutations that result in even more stunning varieties.

Date: From July 30

Time: 9am to 9pm

Details: Admission charge to Cloud Forest applies

Characteristics of Phalaenopsis orchids

Striking colours

Yellow

The search for yellow in *Phalaenopsis* hybrids gained momentum in the 1950s. Yellow-coloured species are few and mostly derived from novelty *Phalaenopsis* such as *Phalaenopsis amboinensis*, *Phalaenopsis mannii* and *Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi*, which had contributed significantly to the yellow in the earliest hybrids. Therefore, they need to be crossed with white flowers for higher flower numbers and better flower forms. However, one limitation in these yellow hybrids is the fading of colour after the flower opens. Yellow flowers with red markings are highly valued in Asia because yellow symbolises wealth and red signifies happiness and well-being.



***Phalaenopsis* Lioulin Giant**

A brilliant coloured hybrid that brightens any collection! Its flowers are bright chromium yellow, further enhanced by a central white halo and a bold reddish-pink lip. Its ancestors, *Phalaenopsis* Golden Sands, was among the few that fronted the breeding of yellow hybrids, and has produced more than 1,700 progeny to date.

Art Shades

Recent advancement in breeding *Phalaenopsis* has resulted in “art shades” just like in *Cattleya* hybrids! It is generally created by crossing a large pink orchid with a yellow one, especially those that were used in creating yellow hybrids. Colours produced are attractive shades of orange such as bronze, peach, salmon and tangerine. Some even have markings and colour patterns.



***Phalaenopsis* Lianher Rainbow**

This big-lipped type moth orchid has a yellow base colour overlaid with a tinge of pink, resembling a peach. Such unique, lightened tints of colour, categorised as an art shade, has inspired breeders to move away from the classic or traditional colours like pink, purple and white when breeding orchids.

Floral markings and patterns

Harlequin

Harlequin hybrids have some of the most irregular and unpredictable flower patterns of large blotches or coalesced spots in red or purple colours against white or light-yellow flowers. These variations are influenced by growing conditions or complex genetics, and thus with cooler temperatures, the colour of Harlequin spots is intensified. Named after the comical servant from medieval French plays who wears wacky, checkered costumes, the orchid world had never seen anything like it prior to its debut in Taiwan in the 1990s!



Phalaenopsis Miki Crown

This harlequin hybrid has an interesting combination of colours and patterns. The yellow flowers with reddish markings are highly appreciated in Asian culture due to the symbolic meaning of both colours. Yellow represents wealth, while red signifies happiness and well-being.

Spots

The French and Taiwanese breeders are skilled in breeding spotted *Phalaenopsis* hybrids. “French spots” flowers have dense, evenly distributed fine spots, mostly on the lateral sepals as influenced by the orchids of their parentage, *Phalaenopsis stuartiana* and *Phalaenopsis schilleriana*. “Taiwanese spots” hybrids usually have smaller flowers but with heavier texture and denser spotting.



Phalaenopsis Ben Yu Lace Princess

This is one of the excellent examples of “Taiwanese spots” hybrids that typically have denser spotting on its flowers. Flowers are white and heavily spotted with rose red. It is also a descendant of *Phalaenopsis Leopard Prince*, a spotted hybrid with flowers that are beautifully shaped with well-rounded form and dramatic markings.

Stripes

Commonly referred to as peppermint or candy-striped Phalaenopsis, their flowers consist of different intensity, number and thickness of dark pink or red stripes. *Phalaenopsis lindenii* and *Phalaenopsis equestris* are one of the earliest species, commonly used in breeding for its stripes.



Phalaenopsis (New Stripes x Tinny Honey)

This new pink-coloured moth orchid is the result of a cross between *Phalaenopsis* New Stripes and *Phalaenopsis* Tinny Honey. The stripes on its flowers are influenced by both parents, and traits are likely inherited from its ancestral species, *Phalaenopsis lueddemanniana* and *Phalaenopsis equestris*.

Floral mutations

Three-Lipped

Akin to the bilateral symmetry of human faces, orchids have three sepals, two petals, one lip (a modified petal) and one column. Pelorism in *Phalaenopsis* occurs due to a genetic malfunction whereby two petals more closely mimic the pattern, shape and form of the lip. The mutation gives such orchids their common name “Three-lipped” *Phalaenopsis*. It’s a genetic mutation that creates a unique beauty that is not to be hidden but appreciated!



Phalaenopsis Miki Golden Sand

This peloric form of *Phalaenopsis* Miki Golden Sand has yellowish orange flowers, speckled in reddish-pink, with lips that are prominently bright purple. It has *Phalaenopsis equestris* in its ancestry, a valuable species with diverse flower colours and compact plant habit. In addition, most of the offspring of *Phalaenopsis equestris* produce numerous flowers which are peloric.

Big-Lipped

The new big-lip breeding is focused on changing the shape of the flower’s parts by making use of reverse pelorism, a genetic mutation in which the orchid lip has a petal-like variation. This genetic mutation causes the lip to change its size, form, colour and pattern to match the two other petals.



Gardens
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***Phalaenopsis* Lianher Grouper**

This pure pink, big-lipped hybrid has a famous grandparent, *Phalaenopsis* World Class, which was the first hybrid that contributed to the rise in popularity of big-lipped moth orchids, and was used to produce more novel big-lipped commercial hybrids.