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Verwer

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[54] DAHLIA PLANT NAMED 'GALLERY VERMEER'

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[56] References Cited

PUBLICATIONS

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[57] ABSTRACT

A distinct cultivar of Dahlia plant named 'Gallery Vermeer', characterized by its suitability for potted plants, garden or patio plants, or as cut flowers; upright and spreading and freely branching plant habit; medium green foliage; early and profuse flowering; rapid growth rate; small decorative-type inflorescences that are about 7 cm in diameter; orange and golden yellow ray florets; and good postproduction longevity.

1 Drawing Sheet

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The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of Dahlia plant, botanically known as Dahlia hybrid and referred to by the cultivar name 'Gallery Vermeer'.

The new cultivar is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the inventor in Lisse, The Netherlands. The objective of the breeding program is to create compact Dahlia cultivars that flower early and profusely with desirable ray floret color and good post-production longevity.

The new cultivar originated from a cross made by the inventor in the summer of 1993, of two unnamed proprietary open-pollinated seedling selections.

The cultivar 'Gallery Vermeer' was discovered and selected by the inventor as a flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross in a controlled environment in Lisse, The Netherlands, in 1993. The selection of this plant was based on its freely branching habit, desirable ray floret color, floriferousness and good postproduction longevity.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal cuttings taken in a controlled environment in Lisse, The Netherlands, has shown that the unique features of this new Dahlia are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

The cultivar 'Gallery Vermeer' has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as a temperature, daylength and light intensity, without, however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of 'Gallery Vermeer'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Gallery Vermeer' as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Suitable for potted plants, garden or patio plants, or as cut flowers.
2. Upright and spreading and freely branching plant habit.
3. Medium green foliage.
4. Early and profuse flowering.
5. Rapid growth rate.
6. Small decorative-type inflorescences that are about 7 cm in diameter.
7. Orange and golden yellow ray florets.
8. Good postproduction longevity with open inflores-

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cences maintaining good substance and color for at 7 to 10 days and plants maintaining good substance and flowering for 3 to 4 months.

The accompanying photograph illustrates the overall appearance of the new cultivar. The colored photograph comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Gallery Vermeer'. This photograph shows the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. Floret and foliage colors in the photograph may differ from the actual colors due to light reflectance.

In the following description color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. The following observations and measurements describe plants grown in Lisse, The Netherlands, under conditions which approximate those generally used in commercial potted Dahlia production with day temperatures averaging 21°C. and night temperatures averaging 14°C. Plants were grown during the summer and measurements and numerical values were averages derived from typical flowering plants in September.

Botanical classification: Dahlia hybrid cultivar 'Gallery Vermeer'.

Commercial classification: Decorative potted Dahlia.

Parentage:

Male or pollen parent.—Unnamed proprietary open-pollinated seedling selection of Dahlia hybrid.

Female or seed parent.—Unnamed proprietary open-pollinated seedling selection of Dahlia hybrid.

Propagation:

Type.—Terminal tip cuttings or by tuberous divisions.
Time to rooting.—About 14 days with soil temperatures of 20°C.

Rooting habit.—Central root with numerous secondary roots that are fine and fibrous.

Plant description:

Appearance.—Perennial herbaceous decorative-type Dahlia, suitable as potted plants, garden or patio plants, or as cut flowers. Upright and spreading habit and freely branching.

Plant height.—About 30 cm. appropriate for 12 to 15-cm containers.

Growth rate.—Rapid, typically only 65 days are required from an unrooted cutting to a finished flowering plant.

Foliage description.—Leaf arrangement: Opposite, simple or compound. Compound leaves have either three or five leaflets. Leaf size, largest leaves: Length: About 15 cm. Width: 6 to 11. Leaf shape: Elliptic. Leaf apex: Acute. Leaf base: Obtuse. Leaf margin: Serrate. Leaf texture: Smooth, glossy. Color: Young foliage adaxial surface: 143A. Young foliage abaxial surface: 146C. Mature foliage adaxial surface: 137A. Mature foliage abaxial surface: 146 B. Venation adaxial surface: 146B with anthocyanin. Venation abaxial surface: 143A. Petiole: 146A with anthocyanin.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Fully double decorative-type inflorescence form with orange and golden yellow ray florets. Inflorescences borne on terminals above foliage.

Flowering response.—Under natural conditions, plant flower from July to November in the Northern Hemisphere.

Postproduction longevity.—On the plant, open inflorescences will maintain good color and substance for 7 to 10 days. As a cut flower, open inflorescences will maintain good color and substance for at least 6 days. Plants will continue to maintain good substance and flowering for three to four months.

Quantity of inflorescences.—Numerous, continuous flowering.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: About 7 cm. Depth (height): About 2 cm.

Inflorescence bud.—Size: Length: About 1.2 cm. Width: About 1.3 cm. Rate of opening: About 14 days. Color: 151C.

Ray florets.—Shape: Short and wide. Size: Length: About 3.5 cm. Width: About 1.3 cm. Apex: Dentate. Margin: Entire. Texture: Smooth, satiny. Aspect: Concave. Color: When opening: 26A. Adaxial surface: 17A. Abaxial surface: 20A. Fading to: Slightly more red than 17A. After senescence: 20A.

Disc florets.—Few and inconspicuous.

Peduncle.—Aspect: Strong, erect. Texture: Glabrous. Color: 137A with anthocyanin.

Sepals.—Quantity: 5 to 8. Shape: Long and narrow with pointed apex. Color: Adaxial surface: 144A. Abaxial surface: 146B with anthocyanin.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Anther shape: Long and pointed. Anther length: About 5 mm. Anther color: 12A. Pollen color: 17 A. Gynoecium: Stigma color: 17B. Style length: About 4 mm. Style color: 9A.

Disease resistance: No known Dahlia diseases observed to date on plants grown under commercial conditions.

Seed production: Seed production has not been observed.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of Dahlia plant named 'Gallery Vermeer', as illustrated and described.

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