



(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Schoone

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(54) **PHALAENOPSIS ORCHID PLANT NAMED**
‘DAME BLANCHE’

(50) Latin Name: *Phalaenopsis* hybrid
Varietal Denomination: **Dame Blanche**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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Related U.S. Application Data

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25, 2011.

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./311**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct *Phalaenopsis* plant named ‘Dame Blanche’ particularly characterized by flowers which are white; on the lateral sepals a haze of green/yellow and red/purple; the labellum is white with yellow and purple; plants which may be propagated economically and uniformly using tissue culture; plants which produce more than one inflorescence; long and sturdy inflorescences; and relatively short, dark-green foliage.

3 Drawing Sheets

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Latin name of the genus and species of the plant claimed:
Phalaenopsis hybrid.

Variety denomination: ‘Dame Blanche’.

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATIONS**

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Appli-
cation No. 61/478,785, filed Apr. 25, 2011 and Netherlands
Plant Breeders’ Rights Application No. OPS788, filed Apr.
27, 2011. The disclosure of both prior applications are hereby
incorporated by reference in their entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Phalaenopsis* plant, botanically known as *Phalaenopsis* of
the Orchidaceae family, and hereinafter referred to by the
cultivar name ‘Dame Blanche’.

Phalaenopsis comprises a genus of about 55 species of
herbaceous perennials many of which, or the hybrids thereof,
are suitable for cultivation in the home or greenhouse.
Phalaenopsis is predominantly epiphytic or rock-dwelling,
and is native to tropical Asia, the Malay Archipelago, and
Oceania. The species typically has 2-ranked, fleshy, oblong or
elliptic leaves affixed to a short central stem (monopodial
growth), which vary in size from 5 to 8 inches to over 2 feet.
The leaves may be entirely green or mottled with silver grey.

Phalaenopsis orchids, often referred to as ‘Moth Orchids’
in the horticultural trade, are frequently used to furnish cut
flowers for the florist trade or sold as flowering potted-plants
for home or interiorscape.

Phalaenopsis produces upright or pendent lateral racemes,
often with many showy flowers which open in succession

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beginning with the lowermost. The flowers possess three
sepals and three petals; the lateral ones being alike. The
lowermost petal, called the labellum, is three-lobed and is
often more brightly-colored than the other flower segments.
Flower colors include various shades of pink, white, yellow
and red-brown.

Phalaenopsis orchids are typically propagated from seeds.
Asexual propagation of *Phalaenopsis* is often done from
off-shoots which frequently arise from the lower bracts of the
inflorescence. The resulting plants are detached from the
mother plant and may be planted in a suitable substrate.

The new *Phalaenopsis* ‘Dame Blanche’ is a product of a
controlled breeding program conducted by the inventor, Rene
Schoone, in Strengweg, Heemskerk, The Netherlands. The
objective of the breeding program was to develop a new
Phalaenopsis cultivar particularly characterized by its attrac-
tive and unique colored flowers, economical propagation via
tissue culture, rapid growth, and a plant dimension suitable
for packaging and shipping to the market.

The new *Phalaenopsis* ‘Dame Blanche’ originated from a
cross made by the inventor in 1998 in Strengweg, Heemskerk,
The Netherlands. The female or seed parent is the *Phalaenop-
sis* cultivar designated ‘(Winter Kaalaxamabilis)’, unpat-
ented. The male or pollen parent is the *Phalaenopsis* cultivar
designated ‘Spring Song’, unpatented. The new *Phalaenop-
sis* ‘Dame Blanche’ was discovered and selected by the inven-
tor as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the stated
cross in a controlled environment in 2006 in Strengweg,
Heemskerk, The Netherlands.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Phalaenopsis* cultivar by
tissue culture was first performed in November, 2006 in
Cieweg 13, Heemskerk, The Netherlands, and has demon-
strated that the combination of characteristics as herein dis-

closed for the new cultivar are firmly fixed and retained through successive generations of asexual reproduction. The new cultivar reproduces true to type.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be unique characteristics of 'Dame Blanche', which in combination distinguish this *Phalaenopsis* as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. flowers which are white; on the lateral sepals a haze of green/yellow and red/purple; The labellum is white with yellow and purple;
2. plant produces more than one inflorescence;
3. plants may be propagated economically and uniformly using tissue culture;
4. inflorescences are long and sturdy; and
5. relatively short, dark-green foliage.

In comparison with the parental cultivars of 'Dame Blanche', the female parent '(Winter Kaalaxamabilis)' has white flowers and they are about 10 cm high, the male parent 'Spring Song' has white colored flowers and they are about 12 cm high, whereas the flowers of 'Dame Blanche' are white and are about 11 cm high.

Presently, there is no commercial cultivar to which 'Dame Blanche' can be meaningfully compared.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Phalaenopsis* 'Dame Blanche' showing the colors as true as is reasonably possible with colored reproductions of this type. Colors in the photographs may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description, which accurately describe the color of 'Dame Blanche'.

FIG. 1 shows a side view perspective of a typical flowering plant of 'Dame Blanche' in a 12 cm pot, at 16 months of age.

FIG. 2 shows a close-up view of the typical buds and flowers of 'Dame Blanche'.

FIG. 3 shows a close-up view of the typical leaves of 'Dame Blanche'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The new *Phalaenopsis* cultivar 'Dame Blanche' has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype of the new cultivar may vary with variations in environment such as temperature, light intensity, and day length without any change in the genotype of the plant.

The aforementioned photographs, together with the following observations, measurements and values describe plants of 'Dame Blanche' as grown in a greenhouse in Strengweg, Heemskerk, The Netherlands, under conditions which closely approximate those generally used in commercial practice. Initially, the ideal temperature to grow plants of 'Dame Blanche' is 27° C. during the day and at night. Then, during the flowering phase of 'Dame Blanche', the ideal growing temperature is 20-22° C. during the day and 18° C. at night. Light levels for growing 'Dame Blanche' are a minimum of 5,000 lux and a maximum of 10,000 lux. A balanced fertilizer with level of 200 ppm N, 87 ppm P, 168 ppm K is applied. Duration of growth of 'Dame Blanche' from potting size is between 10 and 14 months.

Color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart (R.H.S.), 2007 edition, except where gen-

eral colors of ordinary significance are used. Color values were taken under daylight conditions at approximately noon in Zaandammerweg, Assendelft, The Netherlands. The age of the 'Dame Blanche' plants described is 12 months after potting.

Classification:

Botanical.—*Phalaenopsis* hybrid.

Parentage:

Female or seed parent.—*Phalaenopsis* cultivar designated '(Winter Kaalaxamabilis)', unpatented.

Male or pollen parent.—*Phalaenopsis* cultivar designated 'Spring Song', unpatented.

Propagation:

Type.—Tissue culture.

Rooting habit and description.—Approximately 5 mm-6 mm wide and greyed/green (RHS 190C and RHS 195A) in color; freely branching. It takes 12 weeks for plants growing in tissue culture to initiate roots.

Plant:

Size at maturity.—Height: about 61 cm. Spread: about 40 cm to 50 cm.

Growth habit.—Standard; green (RHS 137A) leaves and a relatively normal raceme.

Vigor.—Moderate.

Crop time.—Following asexual propagation, at about 26 weeks 2 leaves appear; at about 30 weeks 3-4 leaves appear; after a cold treatment of about 4-8 weeks at a temperature of about 19° C. about 2 peduncles with flowers appear.

Foliage:

Quantity per plant.—About 6 to 8 leaves are produced before flowering.

Arrangement and attachment.—Half up/horizontal and on two sides.

Overall shape of leaf.—Oval, the tip is blunt and asymmetric.

Texture (upper & underside).—Smooth and leathery.

Pubescence.—None.

Mature leaf length.—About 19 to 24 cm.

Mature leaf width.—About 7 and 9 cm.

Mature leaf thickness.—About 2 mm.

Mature leaf color.—Upper side: green RHS 137A.

Under side: yellow-green RHS 146B.

Leaf base.—Acute.

Margin.—Entire.

Venation.—Pattern: parallel. Color of midvein: upper side: green RHS 137A. Under side: yellow-green RHS 146B.

Raceme:

Quantity per plant.—About 1 to 2.

Number of flowers per raceme.—About 5 to 10.

Length.—About 55 and 65 cm.

Diameter.—About 5 mm.

Strength.—Strong.

Aspect.—Upright.

Texture.—Glabrous and smooth.

Color.—Brown (RHS N200A) with yellow-green spots (RHS 144C).

Internode.—Length: about 30 to 45 mm.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Upright to slightly pendant, racemose inflorescence with bilaterally symmetrical flowers that open in succession beginning with the lowermost flower.

Buds.—Height (from base to tip): about 15 mm to 30 mm. Diameter (at midpoint): about 15 mm to 25 mm. Shape: egg-shaped. Color: yellow-green (RHS 145A) with some purple (RHS N79C).

Flowering time.—For an untreated plant (flowering 5
plant that has not undergone cold-treatment where the
plant grows at a temperature of 18° C. to 19° C. for
about 4 to 8 weeks after a period of about 30 weeks at
a temperature of 25° C.), 2 racemes appear with about 10
16 to 20 flower buds and flowers per inflorescence.
First flowers can be expected approximately 4 to 6
months after planting a plant with a leaf diameter of 3
to 5 cm. Flowers persistent.

Flowering longevity.—On the plant: about 4 to 6
months; lastingness of cut flowers: has not been 15
observed.

Fragrance.—No fragrance.

Flower.—Rate of opening: Flowers fully opened about 2
to 3 days after petal and sepal separation. Orientation
at opening: slanted upward and outward. Shape: Typi- 20
cal shape of *phalaenopsis* orchid; see FIG. 2. Size:
Height: about 95 mm. Diameter: about 105 mm.
Depth of tube: about 15 mm.

Petals.—Quantity and arrangement: six petals and
sepals that are trimerous, overlapping and arranged in 25
2 whorls. Petals are more pronounced than sepals.
Arrangement: Inner whorl of petals comprises 3 pet-
als, 2 lateral petals and labellum. 2 lateral petals:
Overall shape: broadly ovate and weakly cupped.
Apex: oval. Margin: entire and weakly undulate. 30
Base: broadly ovate. Length: about 62 mm. Width:
about 45 mm. Texture: Upper surface: smooth and
satiny. Under surface: smooth and satiny. Color (when
fully opened): upper surface: white (RHS NN155C).
Under surface: white (RHS NN155C). Labellum: 35
Overall shape: 3-lobed with 2 prominent callosities at
central junction of the lateral lobes and base of the
midlobe. Lateral lobes of labellum fold upward about
the column; the midlobe extends forward and is ter-
minated by 2 short filiform appendages at the apex. 40
Lateral lobes of the labellum are ovate in shape while
the midlobe is triangular with a bump and a rib on it.
Margin: entire and weakly undulate. Apex: ovate.
Length: about 28 mm. Width (not flattened): about 25
mm. Texture: Upper and under surface: smooth and 45
satiny. Color (when fully opened): Upper surface: the
main color of the midlobe and the lateral lobes is
white (RHS NN155C). The midlobe has also some

red-purple (RHS 71A) and yellow (RHS 2B). In the
center of the lateral lobes are red-purple stripes (RHS
71A) and the bottom edge is yellow (RHS 2B). Under
surface: midlobe: main color is white (RHS
NN155C). Corners are yellow (RHS 2A) and at the
base some red-purple (RHS 71A). Lateral lobes: main
color is white (RHS NN155C). Bottom edges are
yellow (RHS 2A). At the base also some red-purple
(RHS 71A). Chirri: color: yellow (2B). Pestle (Cal-
losities): Length: about 4 mm. Width (not flattened):
about 5 mm. Color: yellow (RHS 3A) with red/purple
stripes and spots (RHS 71A).

Sepals.—Arrangement: Outer whorl comprises 3 sepals.
Overall shape: elliptical and weakly cupped. Margin:
entire and weakly undulate. Length: about 50 mm.
Width: about 30 mm to 40 mm. Apex: oval/round.
Texture: Upper and under surface: smooth and satiny.
Color (when fully opened): Upper surface: white
(RHS NN155C). On the lateral sepals there is a haze
of green-yellow (RHS 1C) and red-purple (RHS
64B). Under surface: white (RHS NN155C) with yel-
low-green in the center (RHS 154C) and red-purple
(RHS 64B). Pedicel: Length: about 45 mm. Diameter:
about 3 to 4 mm. Texture: glabrous and smooth.
Color: yellow-green (RHS 145C) with RHS 146C.

Reproductive organs:

Arrangement.—The stamens, style and stigmas are
fused into a single, short structure called the column,
possessing one terminal anther with pollen grains
united into a pollinia, which are covered by an anther
cap. The stigma is located under the column behind
the pollinia. The ovary is inferior with three carpels
present. The plant has not produced seed.

Column.—Length: about 11 mm. Diameter: about 7
mm. Color: white (RHS NN155C).

Pollinia.—Quantity: Two. Diameter: about 1 mm.
Color: orange (RHS N25A).

Ovary.—Length: about 5 mm. Diameter: about 5 mm.
Color: white (RHS NN155C).

Disease/pest resistance/susceptibility: No specific resistance
or susceptibility observed.

Temperature tolerance: Tolerant to a low temperature of about
15° C. and to a high temperature about 30° C.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct *Phalaenopsis* plant named 'Dame
Blanche', as illustrated and described herein.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2

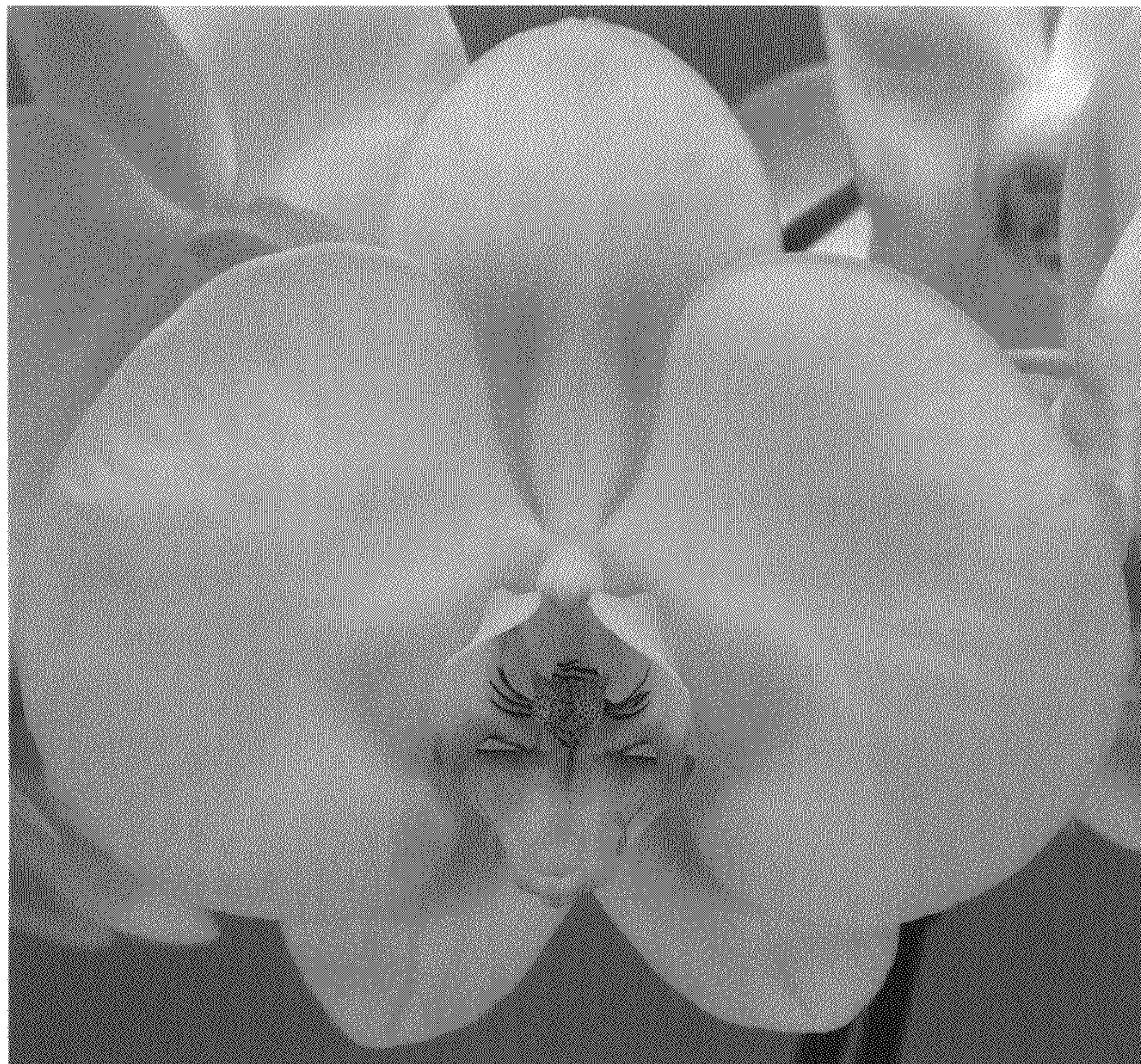


FIG. 3

