

Watch the birdie...the flower that took flight

Hovering: The 'bird' that appeared in the orchid



From another angle: The orchid

Irish Daily Mail Reporter

BEAUTIFUL, isn't it? Hovering over an orchid, its glowing wings outstretched, floats an almost ethereal bird.

Those white and deep pink eyes look straight at you, and the pointed beak seems poised to dip forward and drink in the nectar.

And yet...there isn't a bird here at all, simply an optical illusion created by the

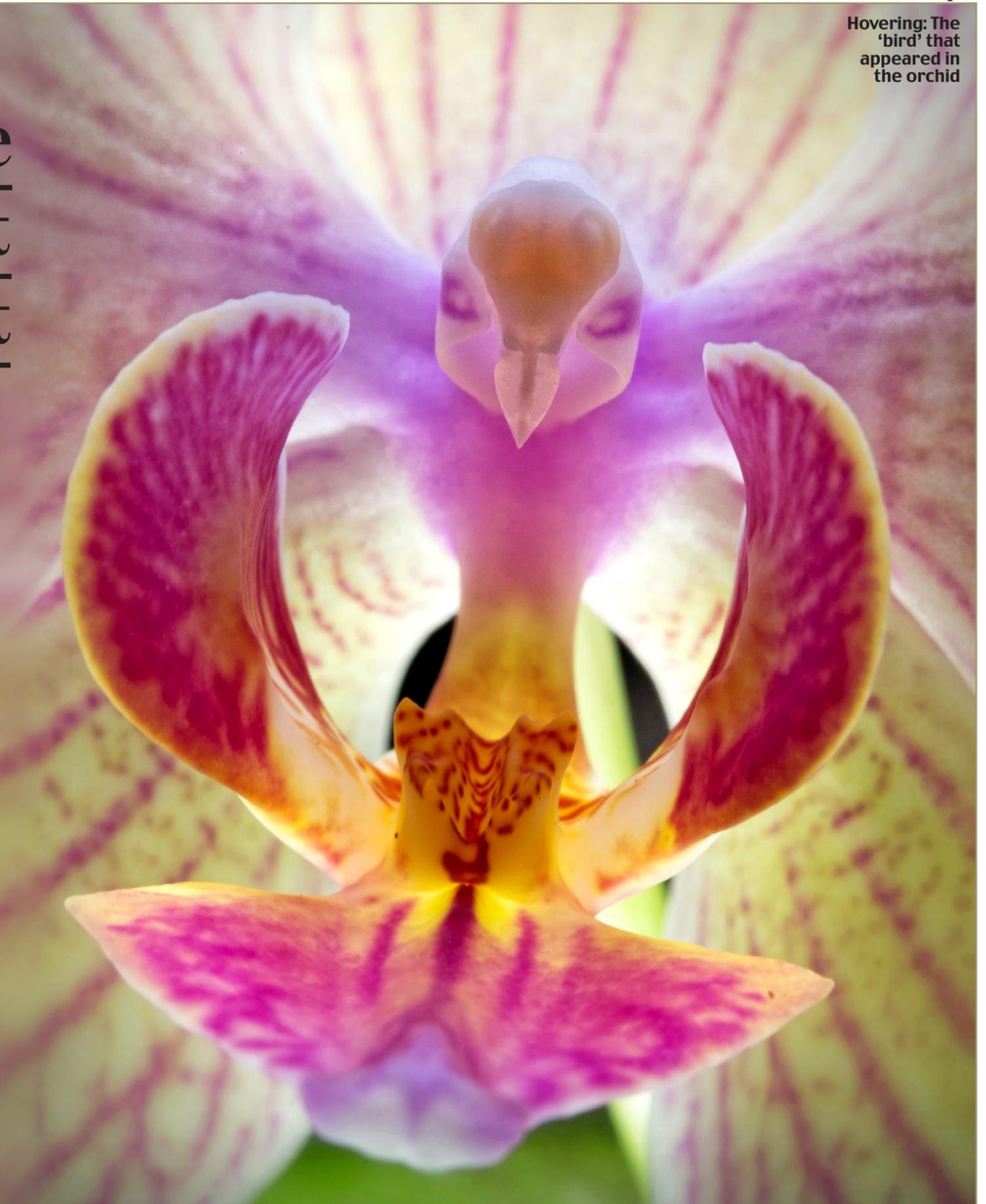
Optical illusion created by leaves

leaves of this pink moth orchid.

Photographer Christian Kneidinger, 50, was taking pictures in a botanical garden in Linz, Austria, when he realised he was looking at something special. 'I never expected to see something so magical,' he said.

'I was taking pictures of orchids but I was trying to focus on the colour rather than the flower itself. After about an hour, I took a closer look at the centre of the flower, and I suddenly realised how interesting it looked.

'I showed other visitors what I had captured, but no one could believe it. Everyone was so surprised, even when I showed them the orchid.'



Love is in the Ryanair

By Eamon Donoghue

A LOVE-STRUCK Galway man who sought the help of social media users from around the world to identify a beautiful mystery woman he met on a Ryanair flight is set to be reunited with her.

Jamie Kelly's friends launched the #loveatfirstflight campaign on Twitter after he made a connection with an attractive Canadian woman named Katie as they sat together on a flight from Barcelona to Dublin last week.

The Ryanair Romeo and Katie hit it off but they got separated when they went through customs and couldn't find each other on the other side.

With only Katie's first name to go on, the smitten 24-year-old from Ballinasloe in Co. Galway turned to social media for help and also made



Hunt: Jamie Kelly

an appeal on a national radio programme to locate her.

It turns out the woman - 27-year-old Katie Moreau from Riverport, Nova Scotia - had been looking for him at the airport, too.

Now the love-struck Galway man will meet Ms Moreau before the end of the week, according to his pals who spoke to the Mail last night.

Mr Kelly told TodayFM's Ray D'Arcy: 'We talked from the plane

They met on a Dublin flight, lost each other at airport... will be reunited this week

into the terminal together and stayed talking until we reached the passport control.'

Got separated when they passed customs

Mr Kelly waited outside passport control for about ten minutes but Ms Moreau didn't emerge. He told



Lost: Katie Moreau

TodayFM: 'See, I was so engrossed during the flight and being the gentleman that I am I didn't want to go to the toilet in front of this beautiful girl so I used the time I had at the passport control to nip to the loo.'

The online campaign eventually spread across the ocean to Canada, where one of Ms Moreau's relatives saw the story and reached out to one of Mr Kelly's friends to put the potential romance back in play.

Ms Moreau told CBC News she

was 'surprised and flattered' when she learned the 'handsome Irishman' had launched an online campaign to find her.

She said: 'When I was on the plane I talked to him incessantly because I had just been travelling for two months in Italy and Spain and it was just so nice to be around English-speaking people, plus I'm a talker.'

'We had lots in common, plus he was very easy on the eyes.'

Her family and friends have been inundating her with messages after they caught wind of the campaign.

She said: 'I find it very humorous because all my friends back home are losing their heads over it.'

Ms Moreau's sister confirmed yesterday that the pair will be meeting before the end of the week, having been chatting online since last Friday.

Mr Kelly will have to make his move quickly though, as the Canadian is due to return home at the end of the week.

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