



A View of 'Mystic Mountain'

This image captures the chaotic activity atop a three-light-year-tall pillar of gas and dust being eaten away by the brilliant light from nearby bright stars. The pillar is also being assaulted from within, as infant stars buried inside it fire off jets of gas that are streaming from towering peaks. This turbulent cosmic pinnacle lies within a raucous stellar nursery called the Carina Nebula.

Scorching radiation and fast winds (streams of charged particles) from super-hot newborn stars in the nebula are shaping and compressing the pillar, causing new stars to form within it. Streamers of hot, glowing gas are flowing off the ridges of the structure, and wispy veils of gas and dust, illuminated by starlight, float around its towering peaks.

Hubble Space Telescope – Wide Field Camera 3
NASA, ESA, M. Livio, and the Hubble 20th
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