

January 2021



Hubble Marks 30 Years in Space with Tapestry of Blazing Starbirth. A colorful image resembling a cosmic version of an undersea world teeming with stars was released to commemorate the Hubble Space Telescope's 30 years of viewing the wonders of space. In the Hubble portrait, the giant red nebula (NGC 2014) and its smaller blue neighbor (NGC 2020) are part of a vast star-forming region in the Large Magellanic Cloud, a satellite galaxy of the Milky Way, located 163,000 light-years away. The image is nicknamed the "Cosmic Reef" because NGC 2014 resembles part of a coral reef floating in a vast sea of stars. The red nebula's sparkling centerpiece is a grouping

of bright, hefty stars, each 10 to 20 times more massive than our Sun. The seemingly isolated blue nebula at lower left (NGC 2020) was created by a solitary mammoth star 200,000 times brighter than our Sun. The blue gas was ejected by the star through a series of eruptive events during which it lost part of its outer envelope of material. Image and text credit: NASA, European Space Agency, and Space Telescope Science Institute

https://hubblesite.org/contents/news-releases/2020/news-2020-16



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