

Carina Nebula

Twenty-two separate Chandra pointings have been stitched together to create this unprecedented look at the well-known Carina Nebula. At a distance of just 7,500 light years, the relatively nearby Carina Nebula is one of the best places in the Milky Way to study how young and massive stars live and die. In this image, low, medium, and high-energy X-rays from Chandra are colored red, green, and blue respectively. Chandra detected over 14,000 stars in this region, revealed a diffuse X-ray glow, and provided strong evidence that massive stars have already self-destructed in this nearby supernova factory.

May 2012

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