

Cosmic Ice Sculptures: Dust Pillars in the Carina Nebula

Enjoying a frozen treat on a hot summer day can leave a sticky mess as it melts in the Sun and deforms. In the cold vacuum of space, there is no edible ice cream, but there is radiation from massive stars that is carving away at cold gas clouds, creating bizarre, fantasy-like structures.

These one-light-year-tall pillars of cold hydrogen and dust, imaged by the Hubble Space Telescope, are located in the Carina Nebula. Violent stellar winds and powerful radiation from massive stars are sculpting the surrounding nebula. Inside the dense structures, new stars may be born.

This image of dust pillars in the Carina Nebula was taken with Hubble's Advanced Camera for Surveys. The immense Carina Nebula is about 7,500 light-years away in the southern constellation, Carina.

**For more information on Tactile Astronomy projects from the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, Maryland, go to the following page at the Web site, Amazing Space:
<http://amazing-space.stsci.edu/tactile-astronomy/>**