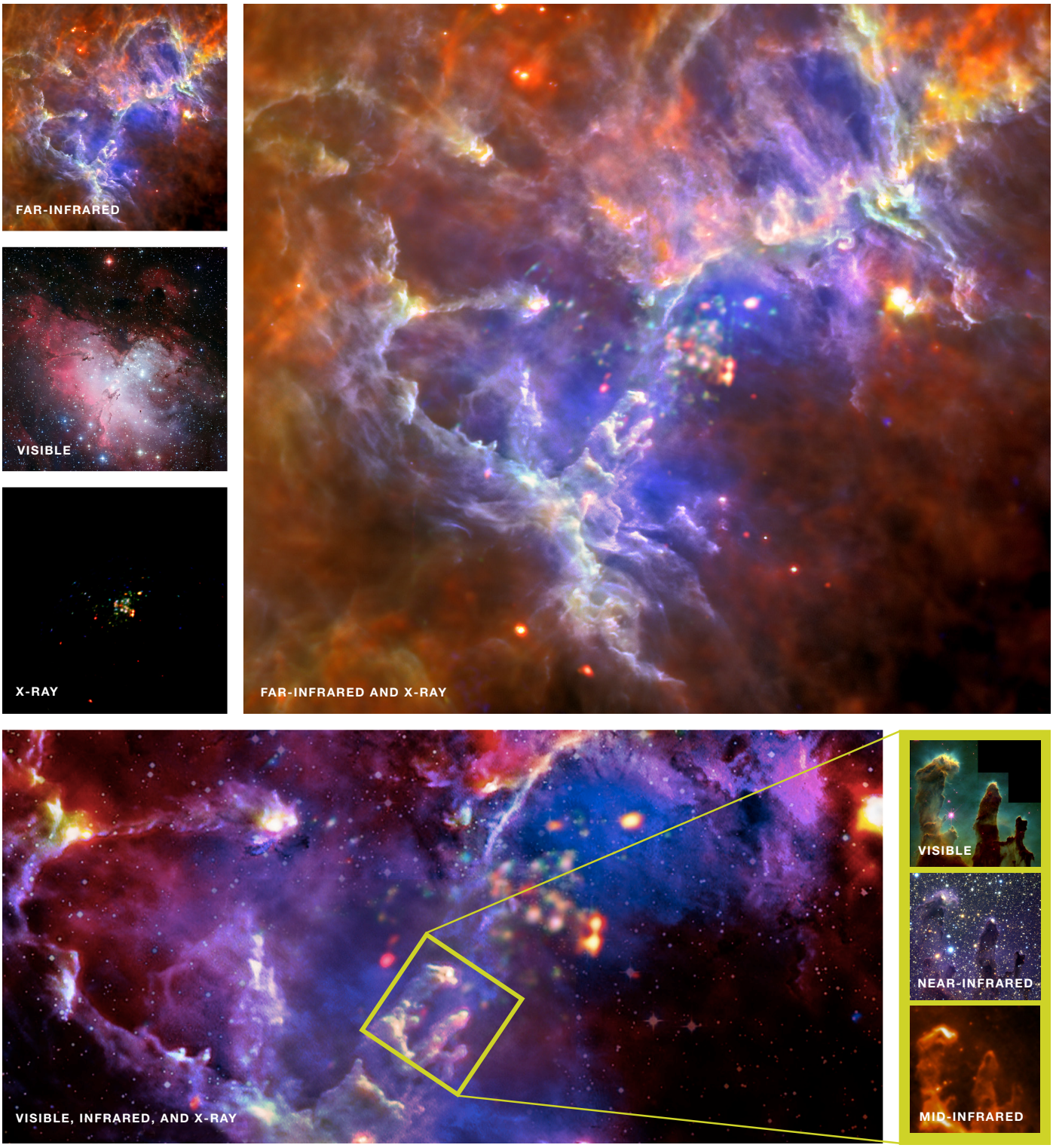


Revisiting the Pillars of Creation in the Eagle Nebula

# Revisiting the Pillars of Creation

The Eagle Nebula is 6,500 light-years away in the constellation of Serpens. It contains a young, hot star cluster, NGC6611, visible with modest backyard telescopes, which is sculpting and illuminating the surrounding gas and dust. The result is a huge, hollowed-out cavity and pillars, each several light-years long.

The image at bottom left on the front of this lithograph is a composite of views in visible, near-infrared, mid-infrared, far-infrared, and X-ray light.

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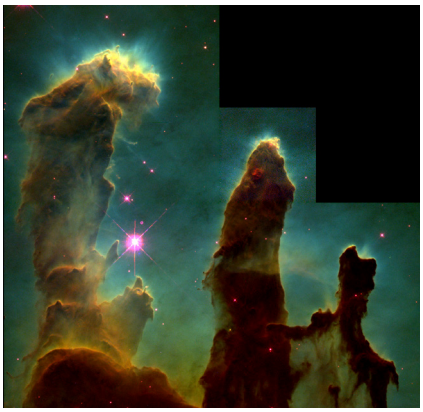
*In 1995, NASA's Hubble Space Telescope took an iconic image of the Eagle Nebula, M16, in visible light. The nebula was dubbed the "Pillars of Creation," highlighting its finger-like pillars where new stars are thought to be forming.*



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*The Eagle Nebula is captured in near-infrared by the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope at Paranal, Chile. This telescope penetrates straight through the obscuring gas and dust, rendering them almost invisible.*

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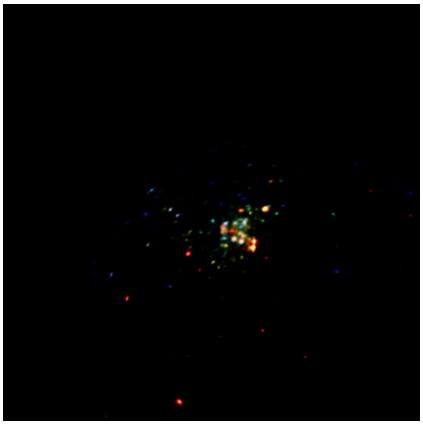
*In parallel, a new multi-energy X-ray image from ESA's XMM-Newton telescope shows those hot young stars responsible for carving the pillars.*



*The pillars are only a small portion of the region imaged in far-infrared by ESA's Herschel Space Observatory, which shows cool dust and gas tendrils being carved away by the hot stars. This wide-field optical image from the ESO Max Planck Gesellschaft telescope in La Silla, Chile, puts the pillars into context against the full scale of the nebula, which is over 75 light-years across.*

Herschel is a European Space Agency cornerstone mission, with science instruments provided by consortia of European institutes and with important participation by NASA. NASA's Herschel Project Office is based at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California. The NASA Herschel Science Center at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, supports the United States' astronomical community. Caltech manages JPL for NASA.

Find out more about the Herschel Space Observatory and its images at the following websites:

**http://www.herschel.caltech.edu/**
**http://sci.esa.int/herschel**
**http://herschel.esac.esa.int/**
**http://www.esa.int/SPECIALS/Herschel**

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