



RCW 49 Nebula

In this infrared image from the Spitzer Space Telescope, RCW 49 is a dark and dusty stellar nursery that houses more than 2,200 stars. Because many of the stars in RCW 49 are deeply embedded in plumes of dust, they cannot be seen at visible wavelengths. More than 300 never-before-seen newborn stars are sprinkled amongst the nebula's older stars (blue stars in center pocket), its gas filaments (green) and dusty tendrils (pink). Astronomers want to study these newfound proto-stars because they offer a fresh look at star formation in our own galaxy.

See more star forming regions in infrared at www.spitzer.caltech.edu.

An
infrared
view of
nebulae by

spitzer



Helix Nebula

Looking like a giant eye in this infrared image from the Spitzer Space Telescope, the Helix Nebula is the spectacular remains of a star that was once similar to our Sun. At the end of the star's life, it blew off its outer layers of gas. What was left is a white dwarf at the center, barely visible here, in whose light the cast-off gases glow. Infrared light from the outer gaseous layers is represented in blues and greens. The red in the middle shows the final layers of gas blown out when the star died.

For more beautiful infrared images of nebulae, see www.spitzer.caltech.edu.

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