

HUBBLE'S LARGEST GALAXY PORTRAIT OFFERS A NEW HIGH-DEFINITION VIEW (STScI-PRC06-10)

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Giant galaxies weren't assembled in a day. Neither was this Hubble Space Telescope image of the face-on spiral galaxy Messier 101 (M101). It is the largest and most detailed photo of a spiral galaxy that has ever been released from Hubble. The galaxy's portrait is actually composed of 51 individual exposures taken with Hubble's Advanced Camera for Surveys and the Wide Field and Planetary Camera 2 in March 1994, September 1994, June 1999, November 2002, and January 2003. The newly composed image also includes elements from images from ground-based photos. The final composite image measures a whopping 16,000 by 12,000 pixels.

Credit for the Hubble image: NASA and ESA

Acknowledgment: K.D. Kuntz (GSFC), F. Bresolin (University of Hawaii), J. Trauger (JPL), J. Mould (NOAO), and Y.-H. Chu (University of Illinois, Urbana)

Credit for the CFHT image: Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope/
J.-C. Cuillandre/Coelum

Credit for the NOAO image: G. Jacoby, B. Bohannan, M. Hanna/
NOAO/AURA/NSF

To see and read more about M101 on the Web, visit:

<http://hubblesite.org/news/2006/10>

<http://heritage.stsci.edu/2006/10>

<http://www.spacetelescope.org/news/html/heic0602.html>

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The Hubble Space Telescope is a project of international cooperation between NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA). The Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore conducts Hubble science operations. The Institute is operated for NASA by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc., Washington.

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