



Photo Op: April 25, 10 am

**CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER UNVEILS NEW MURAL-SIZED IMAGES
FOR HUBBLE 15TH ANNIVERSARY, MONDAY, APRIL 25**

—One of Five California Sites Chosen To Debut New Photographs—

18 April 2005 -- (Oakland, CA) Witness a spectacular event when two new mural-sized images taken by NASA's Hubble Space Telescope will be unveiled on Monday April 25, 10 AM, at Chabot Space & Science Center. The stunning photographs of the well-known spiral galaxy M51 and an eerie-looking tower of gas in the Eagle Nebula commemorate Hubble's 15 years of viewing the heavens.

The 4-foot-by-6-foot image of M51 reveals striking details of how clusters of stars are born in the galaxy's long, curving spiral arms. The 3-foot-by-6-foot photograph of the Eagle Nebula shows a gaseous landscape sculpted by ultraviolet light from a group of massive, hot, young stars. These views are among the largest and sharpest images ever taken by the Hubble telescope and show the awesome beauty of space.

"Hubble has done some amazing things and has been such an inspiration for space exploration," said Alex Barnett, Chabot's Executive Director. "We are proud to have been selected by NASA as one of the sites in the country to debut these never-before-seen images"

The Earth-orbiting observatory was deployed in space on April 25, 1990. Hubble orbits above Earth's murky atmosphere, which distorts light from celestial objects. During its 15 years of viewing the universe, the Hubble telescope has taken more than 700,000 snapshots of celestial objects such as galaxies, dying stars, and giant gas clouds, the birthplace of stars. The telescope gave the world a front-row seat to watch chunks of a comet slam into the giant planet Jupiter. Hubble also photographed galaxies that existed billions of years ago, when the universe was a youngster.

Additional information about the Hubble Space Telescope is available at <http://hubblesite.org/>.

Chabot Space and Science Center is an innovative teaching and learning center focusing on astronomy and the inter-relationships of all the sciences. Its observatory, planetarium, exhibits, and natural park setting are a place where a diverse population of students, teachers, and the public can imagine, understand, and learn to shape their future through science. The Center is located at 10000 Skyline Blvd. in Oakland's Joaquin Miller Park. **Public hours:** Wed – Thurs, 10 am–5pm; Friday & Saturday, 10 am–10 pm; Sunday, 11am–5 pm. Closed Mon & Tues. General admission, including free parking and a Planetarium show, is \$13.00 for adults, \$9.00 youth and seniors. Children under 3 are admitted free. *The Sky Tonight* planetarium shows are \$6.00 adult, and \$5.00 youth and seniors; large-format movies in the MegaDome Theater are \$8 Adult / \$7 Youth & Senior. Telescopes are open for Free Public Viewing Fridays & Saturdays from dusk – 10 pm, weather permitting. Tickets may be purchased at the door, or by calling (510) 336-7373.

For more information, call (510) 336-7300, or visit www.chabot.space.org

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