For INSAP 2022

Sunstar
The Colorful Solar Spectrum Beamed from Mt. Wilson

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Williams College and Carnegie Observatories
Sunstar casting the spectrum onto mist atop Mount Wilson
The precursor, Solar Beacon, atop the Golden Gate Bridge towers, in celebration of the bridge’s 75th anniversary.
Solar Beacon on GG Bridge and Sather uses mirrors and projects white light.

www.solarbeacon.org
The 150-foot solar telescope tower atop of which Sunstar is installed.
A panoramic view from the catwalk of the solar tower. The beam can project into the basin below.
The salmon colored area shows where the beam is visible. This is from an app called ‘HeyWhatsThat’. With coordinates of the desired location entered it supplies the altitude, seen in the lower right corner. The violet X in the upper center indicates Mount Wilson.
Installing Sunstar’s mechanism on a platform of salvaged film equipment.
The artist Liliane Lijn on a visit in 2017. Her collaborator in the creation of Sunstar is John Vallerga, Research Physicist at UC Berkeley’s Space Sciences Laboratory.
The mechanism, an array of six 2” by 12” mirror-backed prisms, facing southeast.
Facing southwest. The cables are connected to a computer inside the upper housing of the tower.
The back of the prism array and its weathered pan and tilt mechanism.
The sun reflected through a prism
Close-up of the sun reflected through a prism
The spectrum cast upon the 60-foot solar telescope tower, a distance of approximately 150 feet.
From the ground about 300 feet away.
Carnegie Observatories
6 mi
Caltech Library lounge at sunset
Rose Bowl through binoculars
7.5mi
Griffith Observatory
15 mi
Topanga Helibase 69 webcam
40 mi
Norm Flash far to right of green

Elsinore Peak
60 mi

Green Flash ca 10:26am
tree
Art at Mount Wilson Observatory: Concerts in the 100-inch telescope dome.
Art at Mount Wilson: Dr. Ed Krupp, Director of Griffith Observatory, talks about celestial imagery on ceilings throughout history.
Art at Mount Wilson: a display of George Ellery Hale’s photographic work, June 2018.
Art at Mount Wilson:
Spectroheliographs taken by Ferdinand Ellerman at Hale’s Kenwood Observatory in Chicago, 1893
Art at Mount Wilson: the first h-alpha view of the sun’s hydrogen atmosphere, taken on the spectroheliograph in the Snow solar telescope, April 1908.
Art at Mount Wilson, Hale’s sunspot studies, ‘Vortex rings in liquid’, 1915
Art at Mount Wilson: sculpture by Paige Emery, September 2022