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Out of this world



Photographers Stefan Liebermann, Marcin Zajac

THESE ethereal images showcase the beauty and spectacle of our universe. They are among the thousands of photos shortlisted for this year's Insight Investment Astronomy Photographer of the Year competition, a global contest organised by the Royal Observatory Greenwich, UK.

Galactic Portal (far left) was taken by Polish photographer Marcin Zajac during a visit to the coastal town of Kiama in New South Wales, Australia. Zajac waited in a small cave for the splendour of the Milky Way to emerge, and was surprised to glimpse Jupiter among the constellations, which can be seen in the shot as the brightest spot to the left of the central rock stack.

To its right is Desert Magic by Stefan Liebermann from Germany, featuring the Wadi Rum desert valley in Jordan, also known as the Valley of the Moon. Its otherworldly sandstone and granite rock formations, arching mountains and canyons are highly reminiscent of a Martian landscape.

The winners of the competition will be announced in an online ceremony on 10 September. ■

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