For INSAP 2022

Sunstar
The Colorful Solar Spectrum Beamed from Mt. Wilson

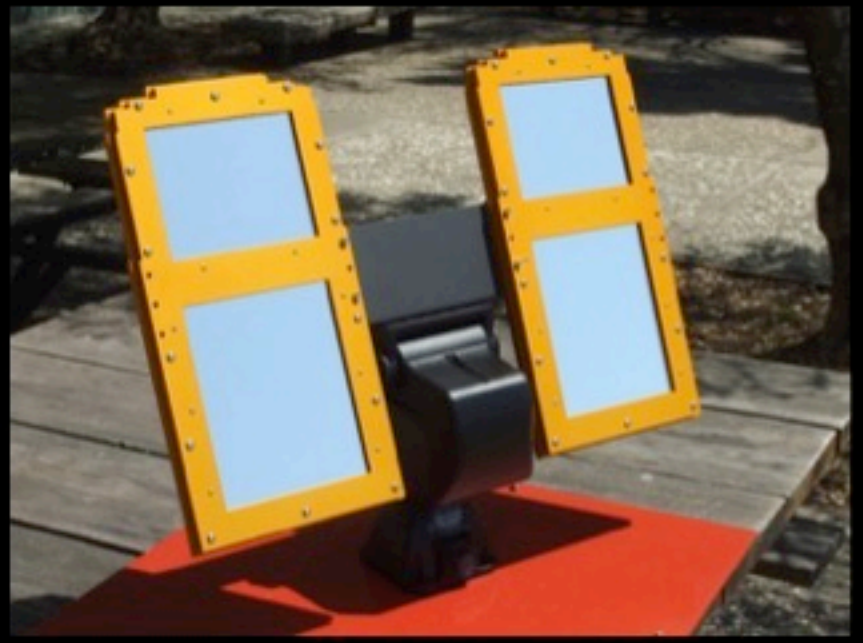
Dan Kohne
Mount Wilson Institute
Jay M. Pasachoff
Williams College and Carnegie Observatories

Sunstar casting the spectrum onto mist atop Mount Wilson

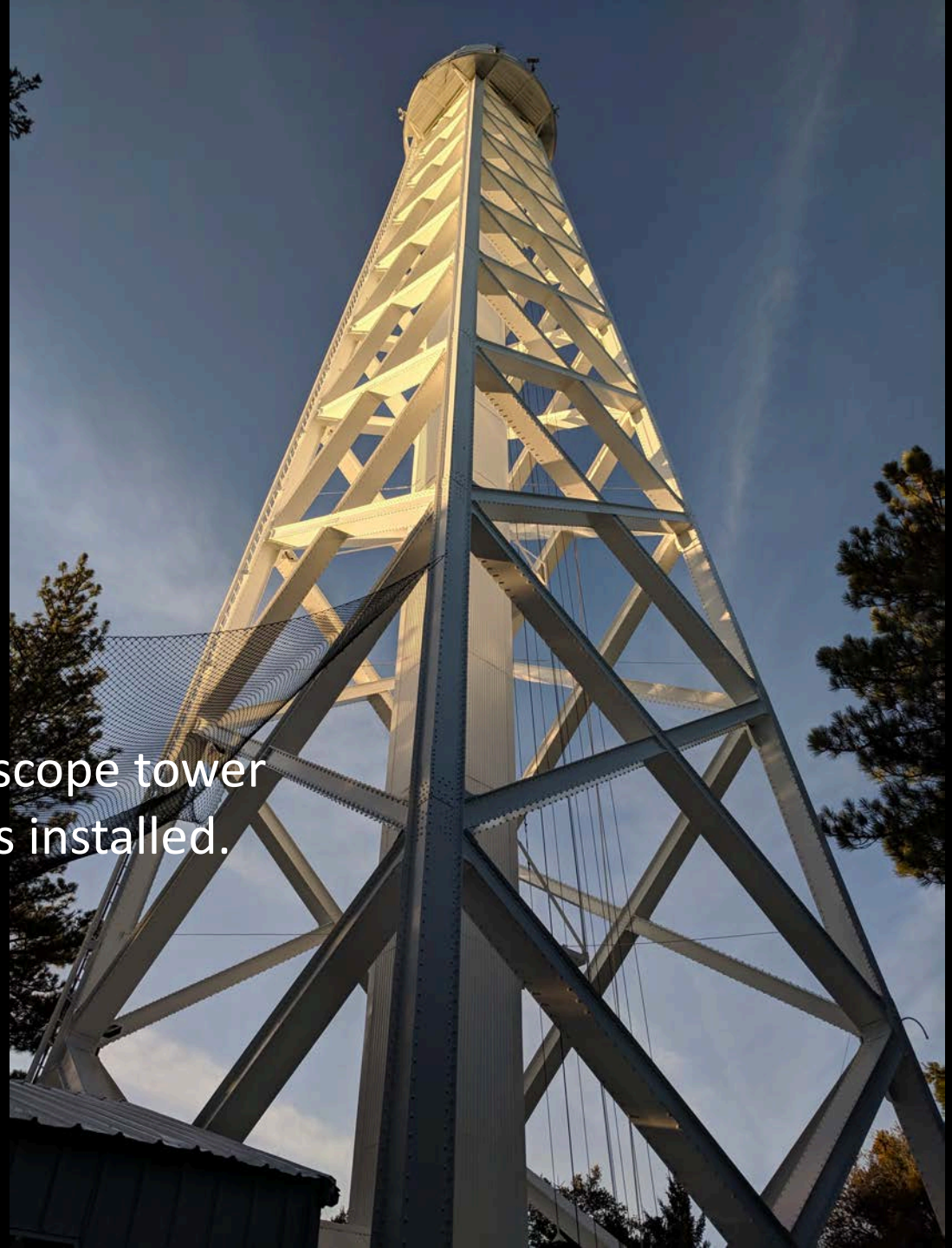
Solar Beacon 2012

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.

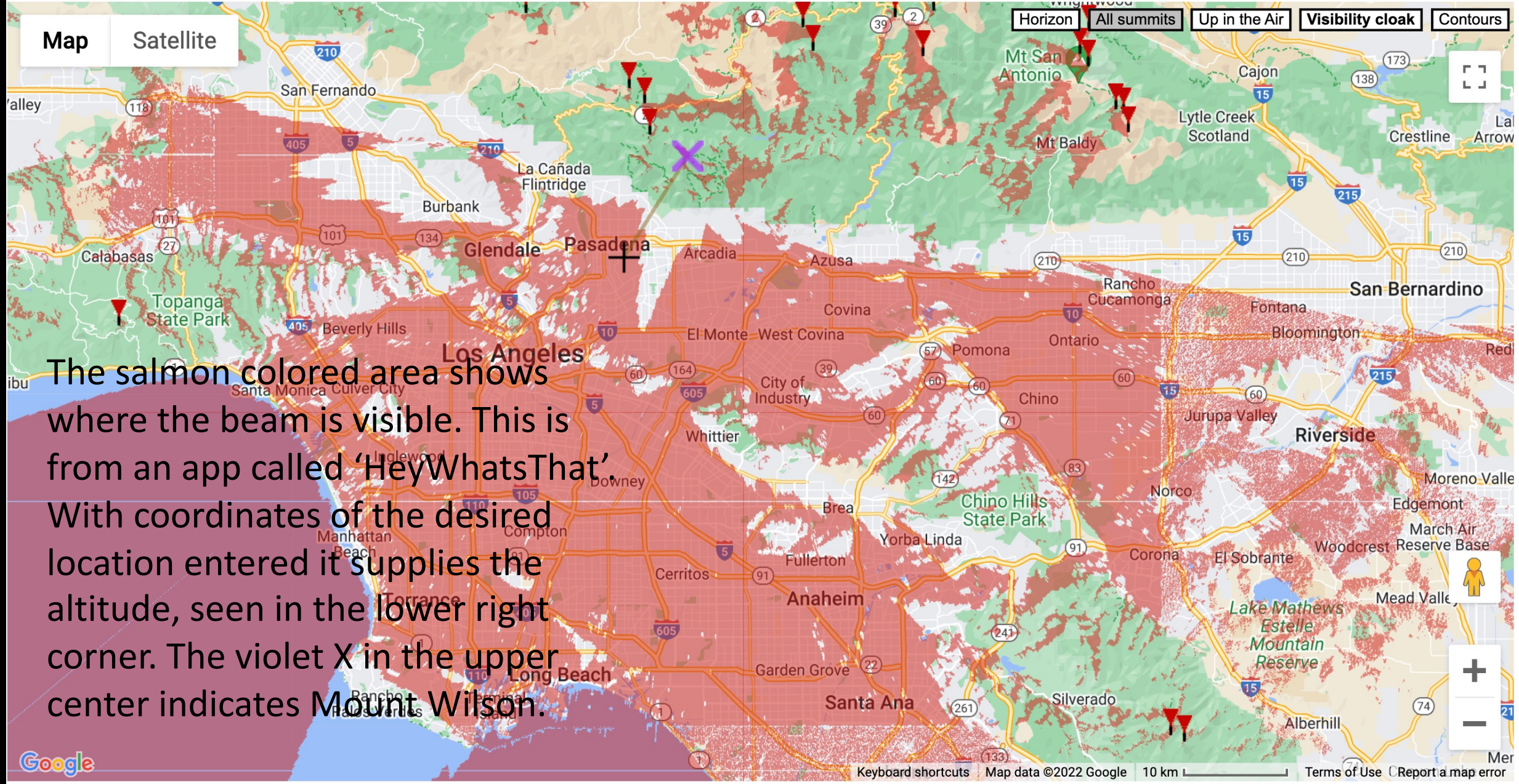


www.solarbeacon.org



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.



34.135687 N 118.126234 W 234m bearing 212° 12 km alt -7.59° compute LOS *Click here to re-center map on Mount Wilson 150-foot solar tower catwalk 1780*

○ English ◉ Metric ◉ DD.DDDDDD° ○ DD° MM.MMMM' ○ DD° MM' SS.SS"

decimal places (0-6) 0 Pan to The View From Mount Battie or find 34.135646, -

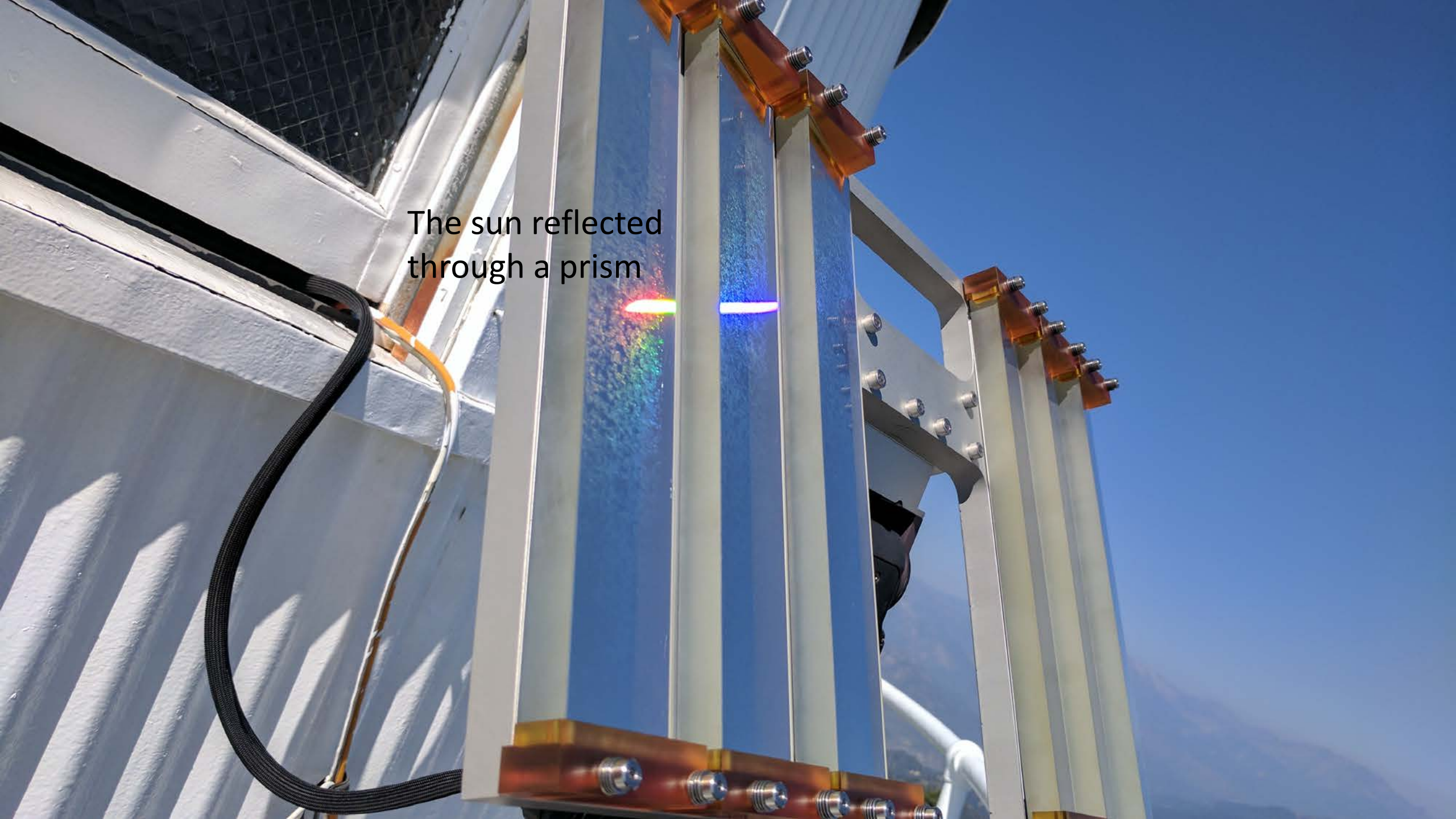
Installing Sunstar’s mechanism on a platform of salvaged film equipment.

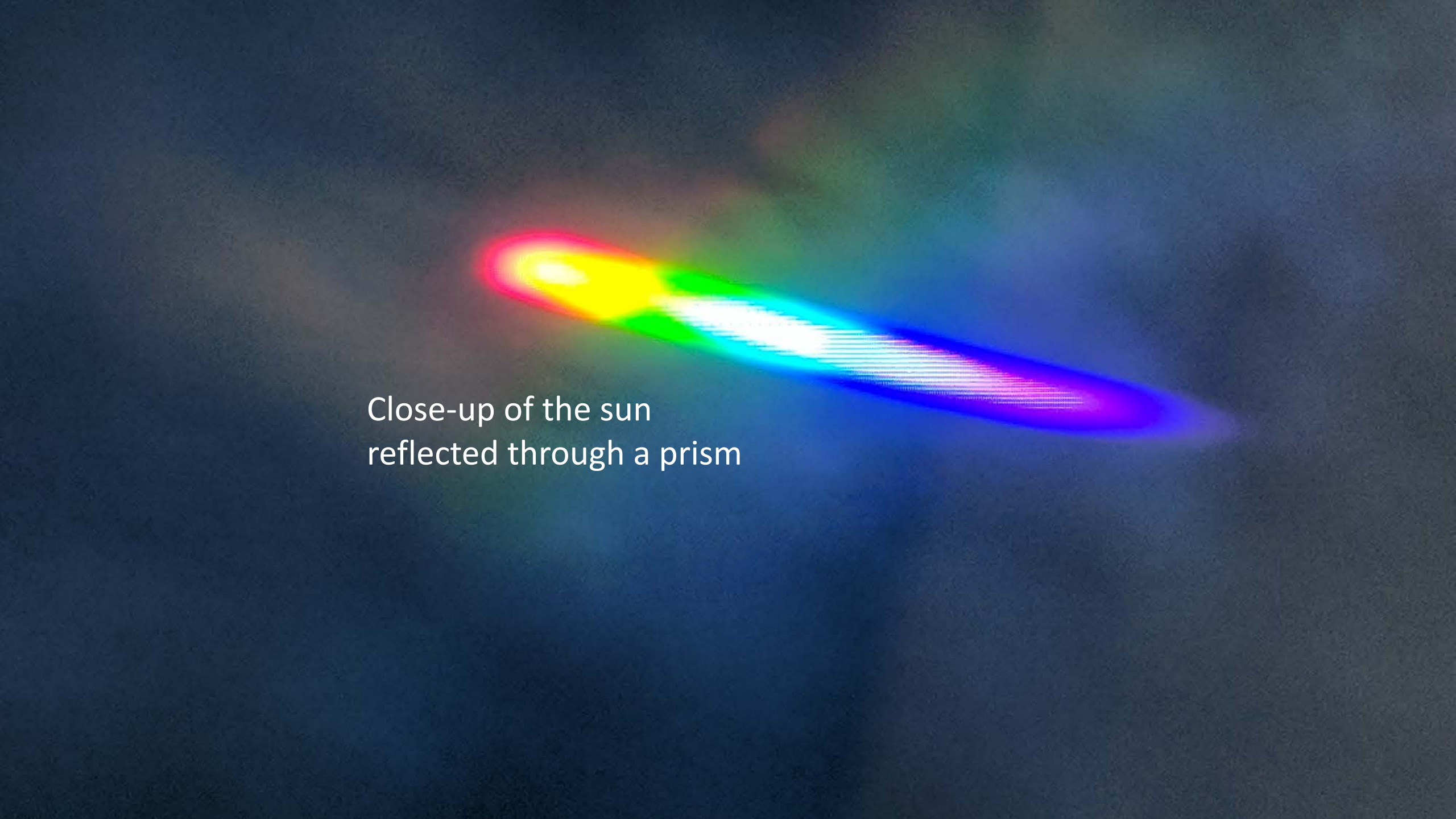
The artist Liliane Lijn on a visit in 2017. Her collaborator in the creation of Sunstar is John Vallerga, Research Physicist at UC Berkeley's Space Sciences Laboratory.

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

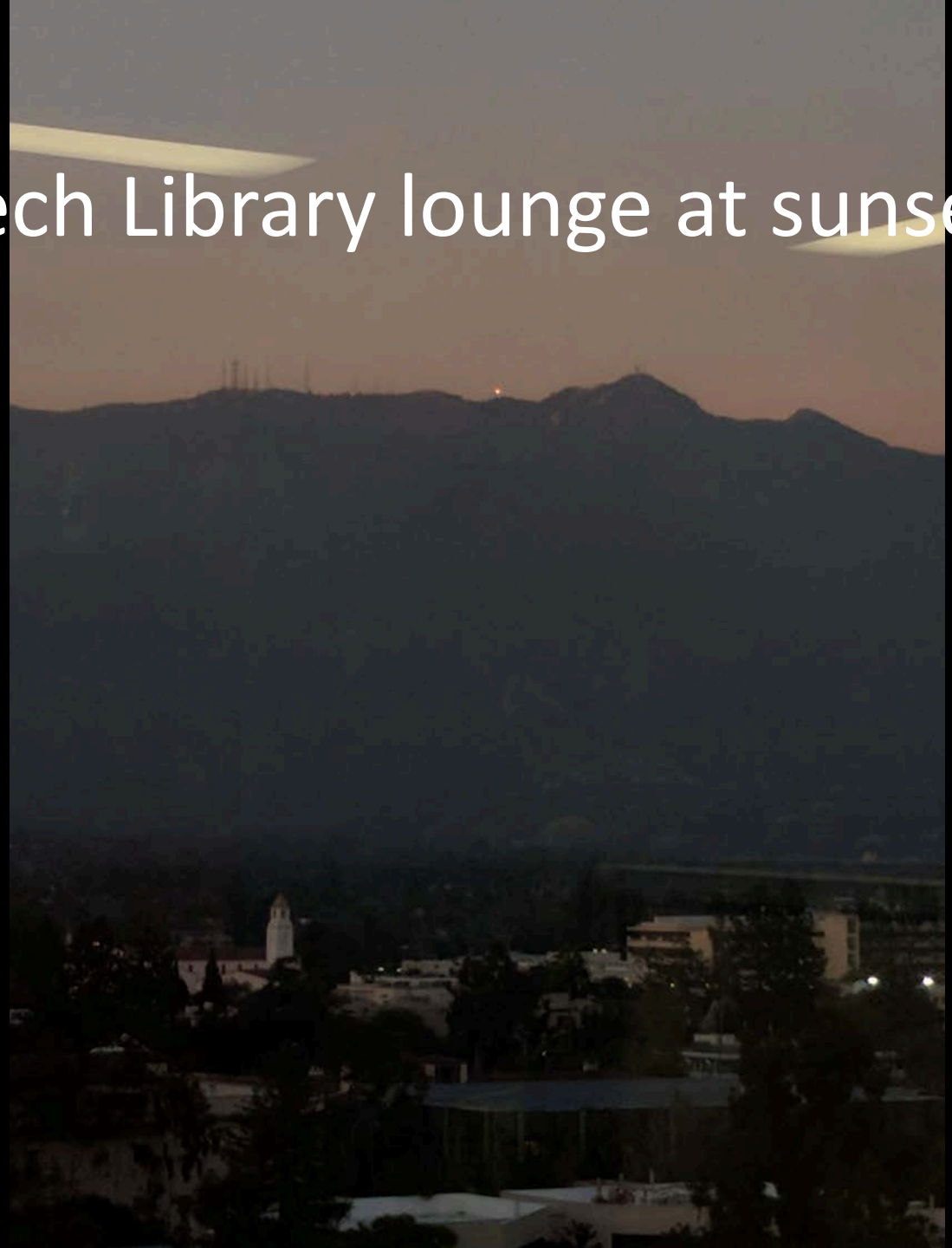
The spectrum cast upon the 60-foot solar telescope tower, a distance of approximately 150 feet.

From the ground about 300 feet away.

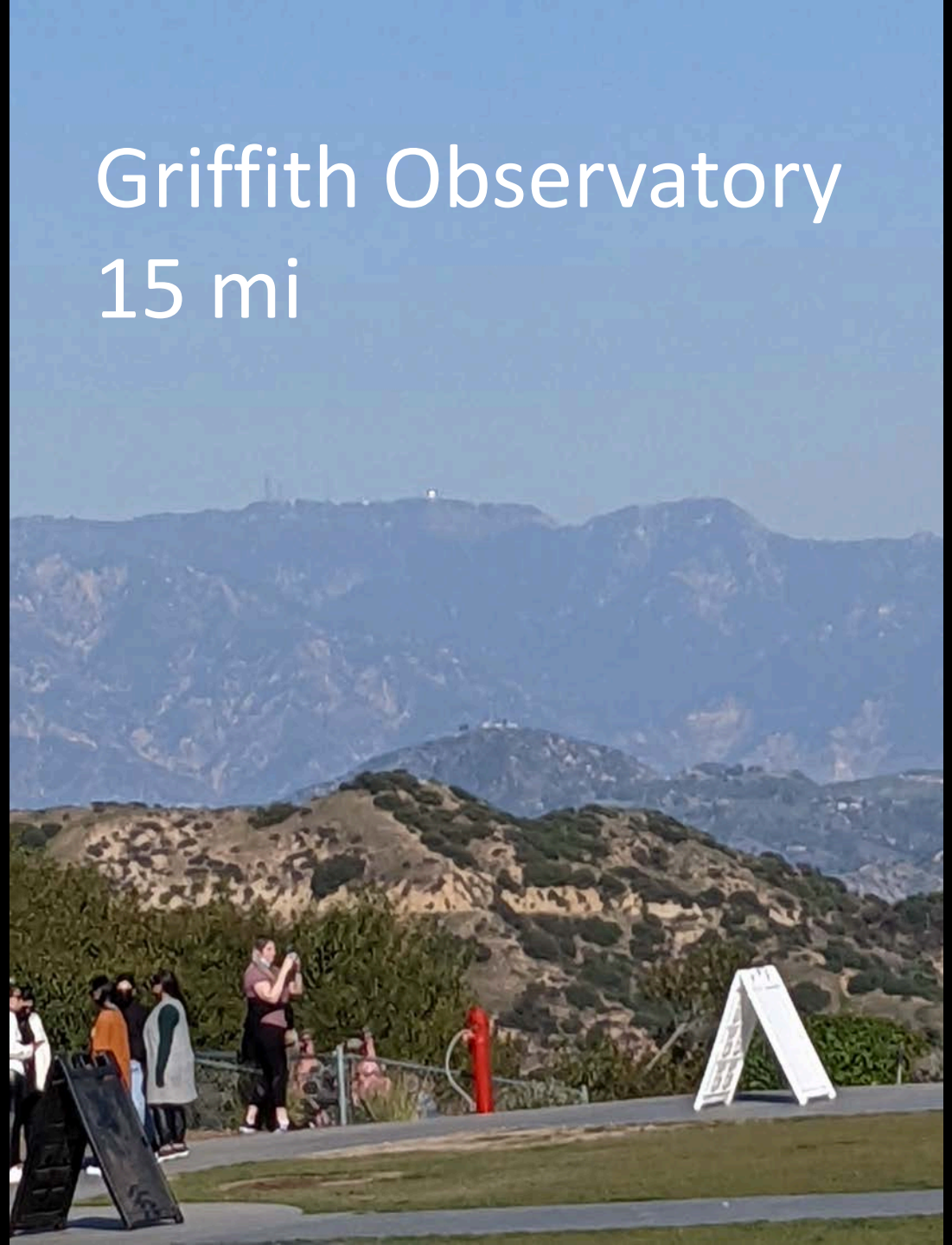

Carnegie Observatories
6 mi

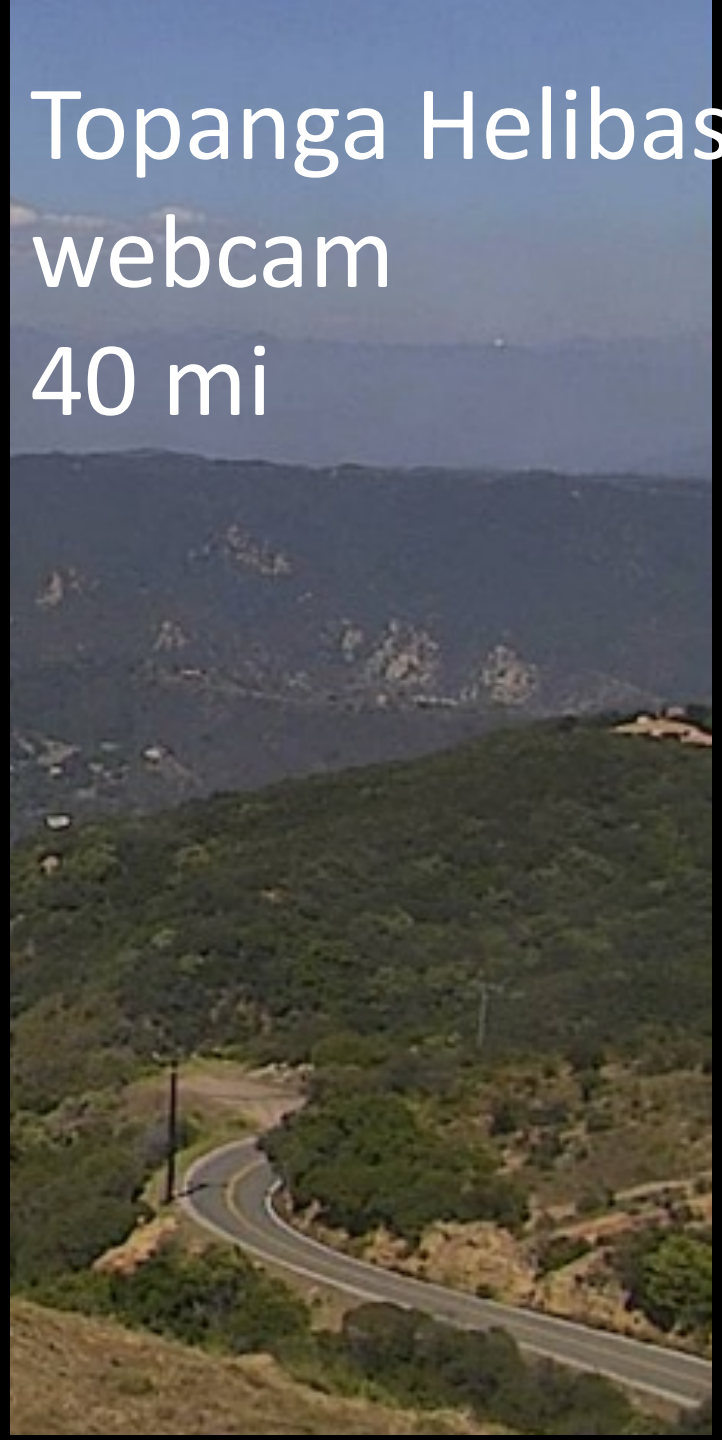

Caltech Library webcam
7 mi

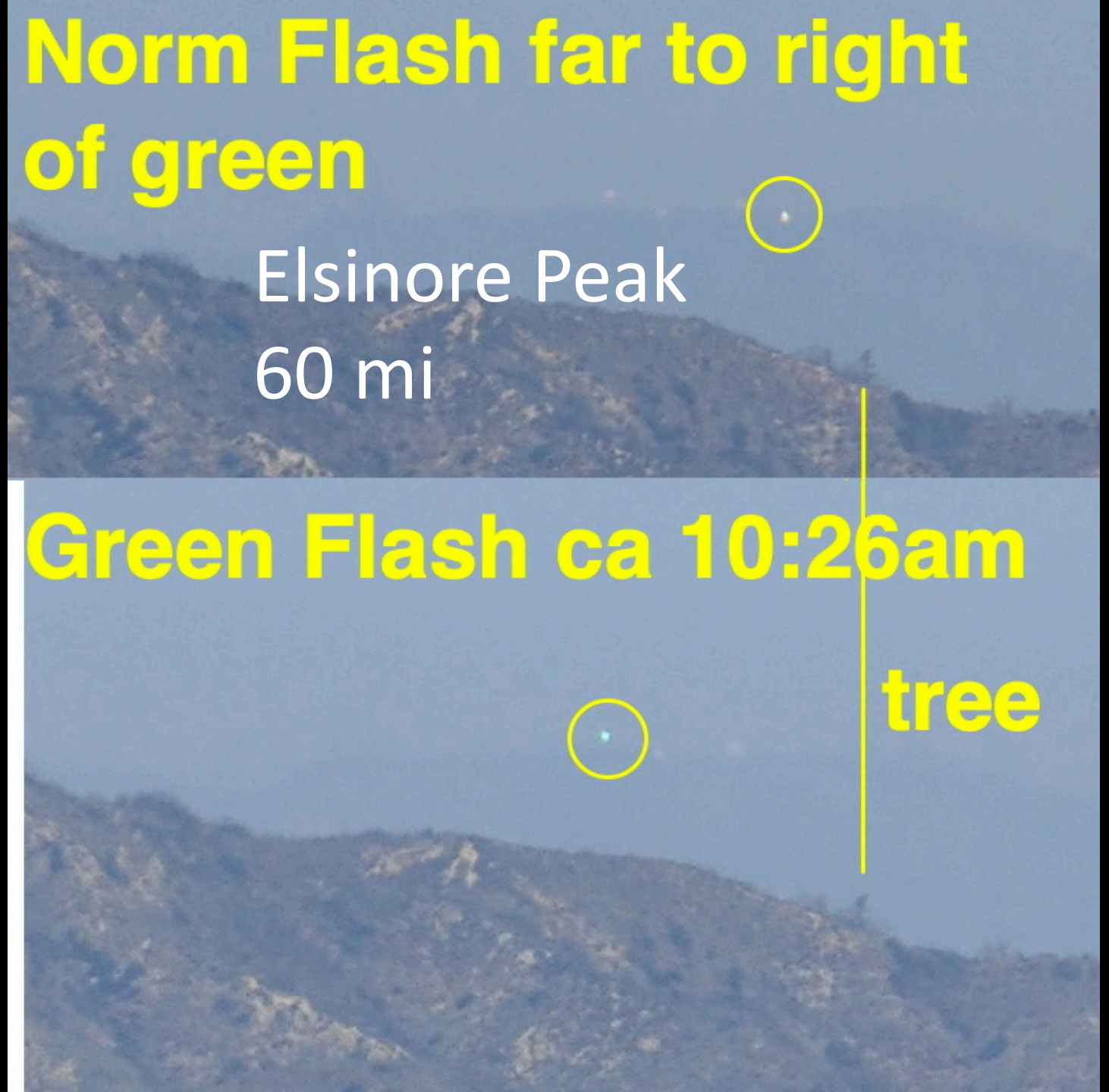
Caltech Library lounge at sunset



Rose Bowl through binoculars 7.5mi


Griffith Observatory
15 mi


Topanga Helibase 69
webcam
40 mi

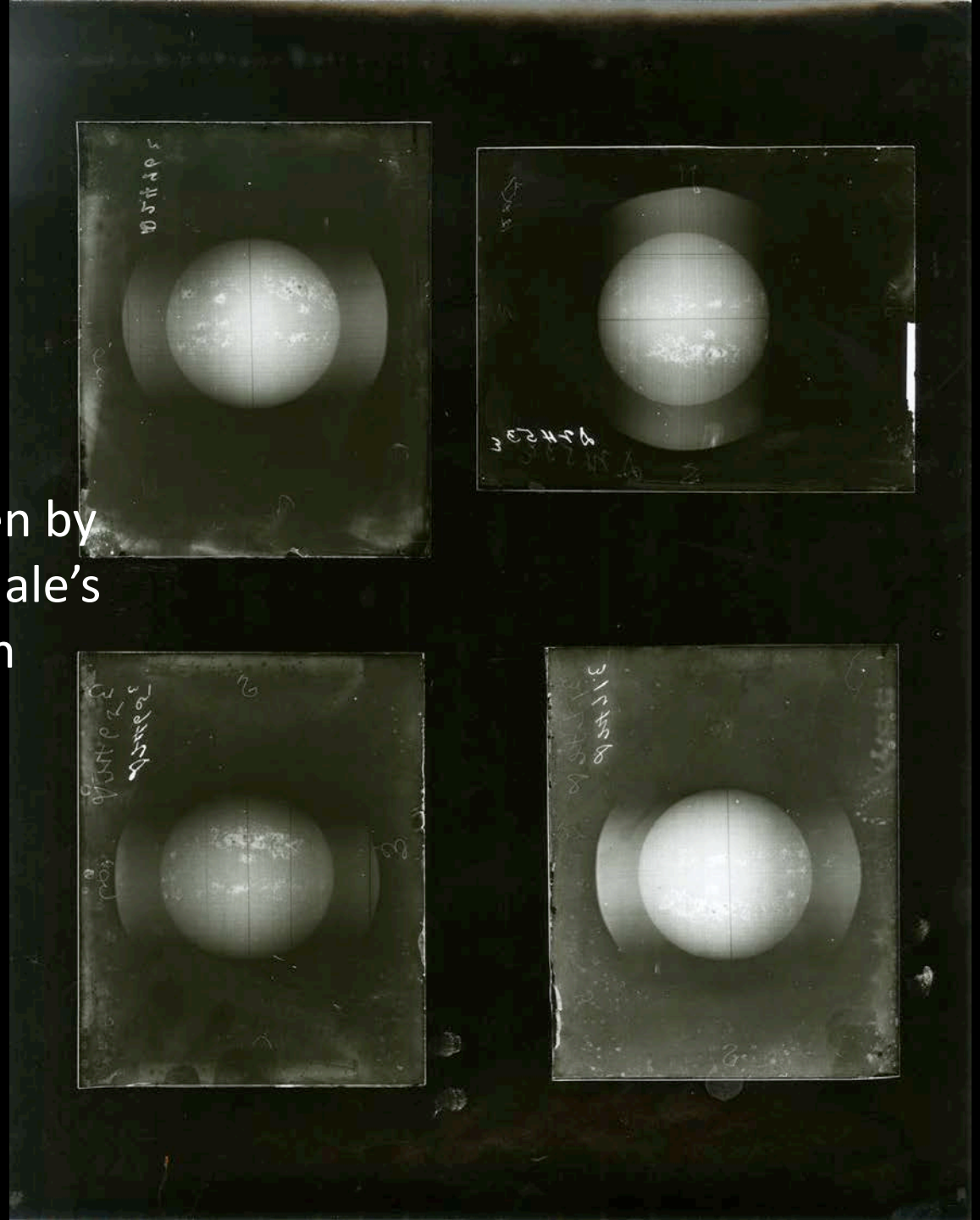

Norm Flash far to right of green
Elsinore Peak
60 mi
Green Flash ca 10:26am
tree

Art at Mount Wilson Observatory: Concerts in the 100-inch telescope dome.

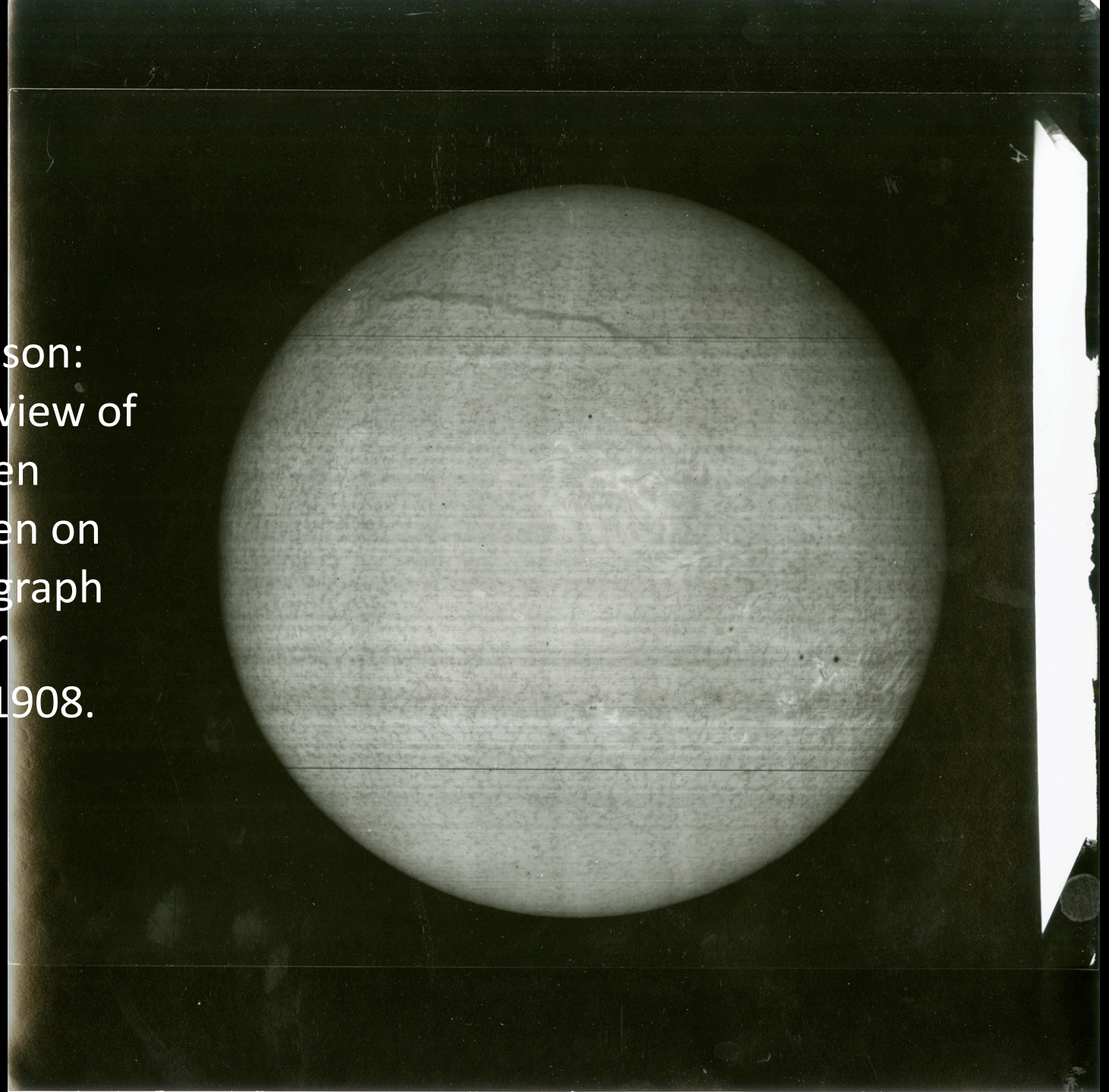
Art at Mount Wilson: Dr. Ed Krupp, Director of Griffith Observatory, talks about celestial imagery on ceilings throughout history.

Art at Mount Wilson: a display of George Ellery Hale’s photographic work, June 2018.

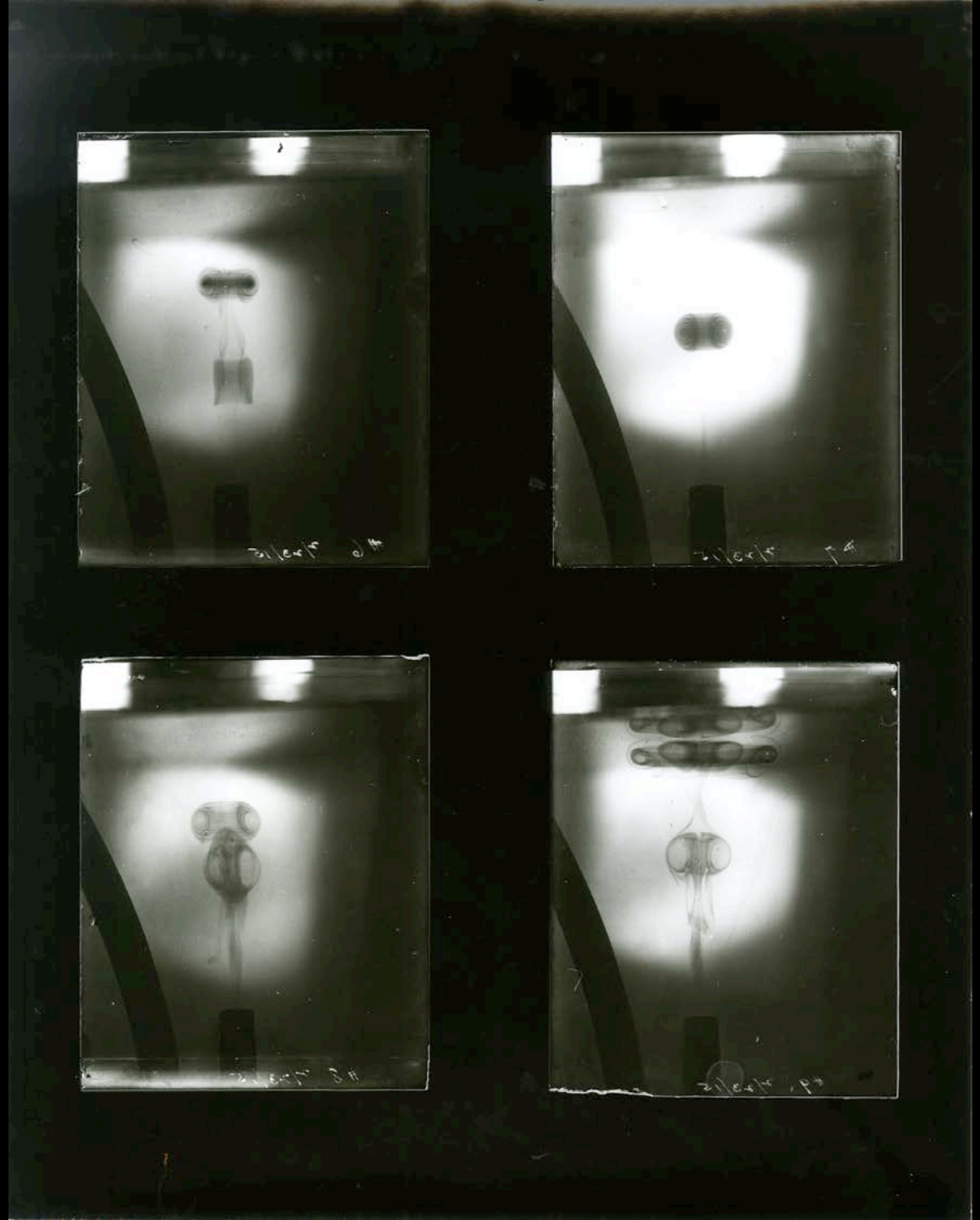
Art at Mount Wilson: Spectroheliographs taken by Ferdinand Ellerman at Hale's Kenwood Observatory in Chicago, 1893



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