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Star Attractions

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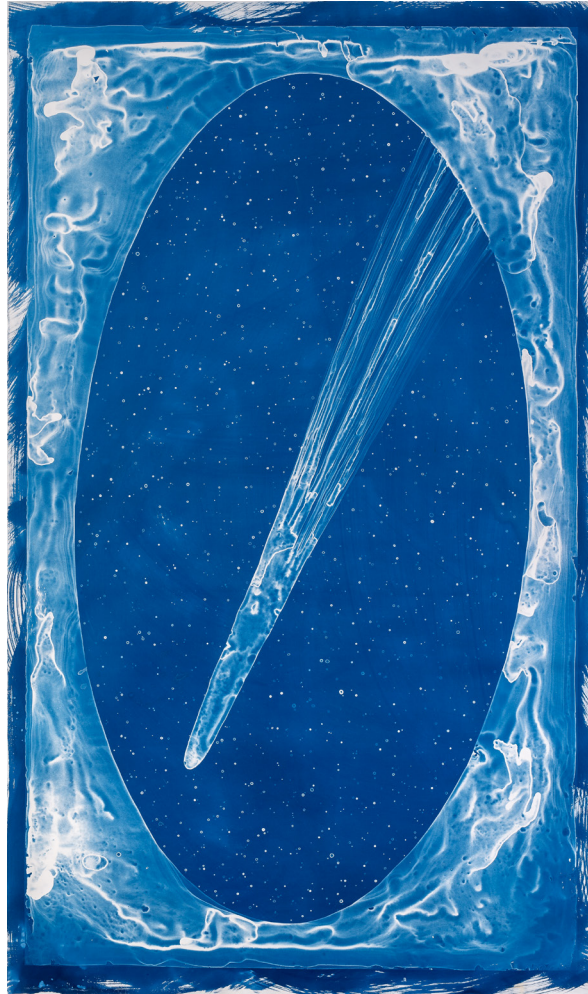
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The Great Comet, after Annie Jump Cannon
Lia Halloran, courtesy of the artist and Luis De Jesus Los Angeles

STAR ATTRACTIONS

On a dark night, a person with good vision can see for twenty quadrillion miles and as many as 2,500 stars without optical instruments.

Astronomers estimate that the Milky Way galaxy has a trillion stars.

Stars are made of hydrogen and helium. The bright light you see comes from the energy these gases emit into the universe.

When you see a star twinkle, it is not the star, but the effect of the earth's turbulent atmosphere as the light from the star reaches your eye.

Blue stars are the hottest stars. Red stars are the coolest.

The smaller a star is, the longer its lifespan.

Every star you see in the night sky is bigger and brighter than earth's sun, our closest star.

The first documented star chart dates to 1534 BC. The telescope was not invented until the 1600s AD.