

THE INTERPLAY AMONG BLACK HOLES, STARS AND ISM
IN GALACTIC NUCLEI

IAU SYMPOSIUM No. 222

COVER ILLUSTRATION: BANDERAS DEL COSMOS

This is a reproduction of one of the ‘Banderas del Cosmos’ (Cosmic Flags), a series of paintings made by the famous Lanzarotean painter and architect César Manrique (1919–1992), to celebrate the inauguration of the Observatories of the Canary Islands, on June 29th, 1985.

“Looking towards the future, new flags spring from the imagination of the Canarian artist César Manrique, who, in a gigantic leap into the unknown, offers us the identity of new worlds swimming into the ken of human perception.”

Jerónimo Saavedra Acevedo, President of the Government of the Canary Islands

“As we enter the Space Age, flags should no longer be inward looking, should not provoke differences, or warlike competition. With the Cosmic Flags, as symbols of our knowledge of far away places, we could start a more beautiful and poetic lifestyle, avoiding gratuitous irrational hatred, or basic racist pride. Human beings are the same species over the face of planet Earth.

As artists, we have the moral and ethical responsibility of applying our talents to live, filling our living environment with harmony and beauty, educating and heightening awareness, to prevent the brutal and systematic destruction of our planet. Doing this, we could enjoy a life worth the living.”

César Manrique

In 1994 Lanzarote was declared a Reserve of the Biosphere by UNESCO. The Organisation cited Manrique’s work as being one of the major factors in the award of this status to the island.

The painting is reproduced with the permission of the Fundación César Manrique.