

Stars and galaxies nod to us from the pictures taken each night from the national telescope, Galileo. Down there, at the Canary Islands, an incredibly powerful digital device scans the sky for us and gives us back a map which is stratified - that we surely know – not only in terms of space but also time (the speed of light so high compared to the meanest distances that can be experimented on our planet, on a cosmic scale, becomes a formidable slowing down factor). But via the Internet, through the eyes of that massive optical telescope we can see almost real time the past of the outer space. Our computer screen can become the display of a sophisticated scientific research instrument. Naturally, to read those images, training, knowledge, scientific instruments, not everyone have, are required. Especially when it comes to reading and understanding the scientific and technical parameters of each image, often scrolling on them. But the most important thing seems to be how even just curious amateurs loathing to open a book about astrophysics can easily be seduced by those intricate geometries of glowing lights and thus allow unconsciously their nervous system (as very acutely pointed out by James Ballard forty years ago) to soak in molecules of a scientific and technologic knowledge, which has been nourishing our imagery for decades.

Not in the least do I underestimate the character of service, divulgation, communication between experts (at the most different levels) that Meris Angioletti's project has assumed, but what I could possibly say on this topic would not be of any significance. My greatest interests on Nightshifts is that it puts us straight in contact with one of the sources of contemporary imagery. And the occasional viewer browsing the site – or whoever is not a non-pro – isn't attracted to the beautiful pictures for their naturalistic "realistic" beauty but rather for their fake and artificial appearance and for their only apparent inauthenticity. Just like the smudges of light mer-

cilessly and cruelly clear-cut emanating from some of these starry objects which seem to be coming straight from Star Trek. In other words, Nightshifts puts us through the raw material of our imagery which, not yet processed, nor "made readable" to the non-pros, seems to have all the tomnes of the most impudent science fiction.