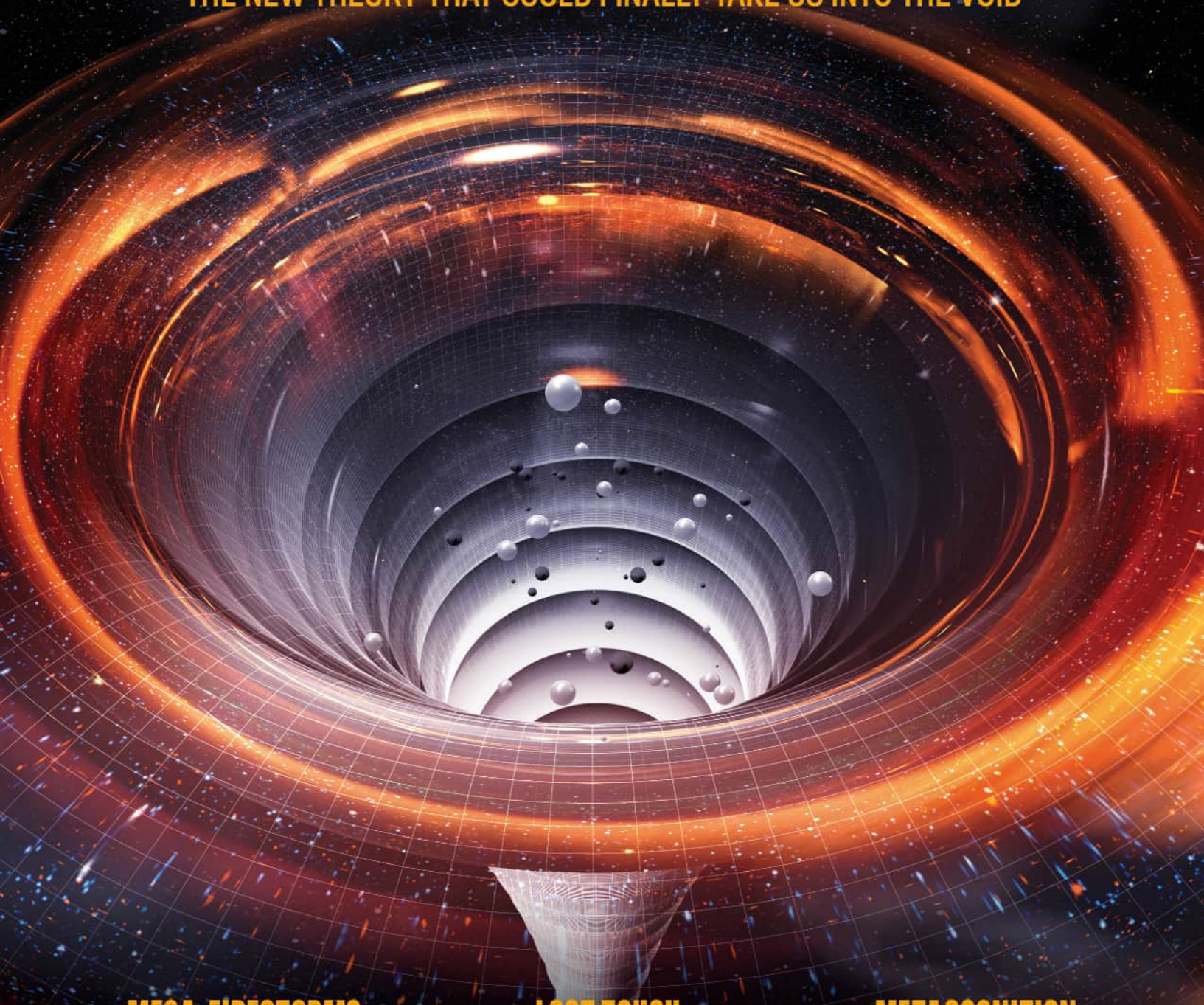


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In March 2026, photographer Angel Fux set out over the mountainous border between Italy and Switzerland to capture a rare cosmic display: a double Milky Way arch.

From Earth, we see different arches of the Milky Way at different times of the year. The summer arch can be seen between March and September and is bright and dramatic. The winter arch can be seen from October to February and is much fainter. Once a year, however, for a few nights in the northern hemisphere, it's possible to see both arches on the same night.

Not at the same hour, though. The winter arch (on the right) appears during the first half of the night. Then, as Earth spins, the summer arch (left) rises in the other direction.

But on this occasion, as the summer arch faded away, Fux noticed another cosmic phenomenon that's rarely captured on film: Gegenschein, or counter glow. Gegenschein is a brightening of the night sky caused by sunlight scattering off a disc of interplanetary dust. It's extremely hard to see with the naked eye, but Fux managed to capture and enhance it in this composite image, creating the faint third arch in the middle.

ANGEL FUX

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