

Telescope Hologram with Halley's Comet, 2-color, 2-channel, white light transmission, 8"x10", glass plate, laminated to first surface mirror

This hologram was originally commissioned, in June 1986, by the Museum of Holography, in NY, to be presented as a gift to New York City, to commemorate that year's pass by Earth of Halley's Comet. Mayor Ed Koch, to whom the hologram was presented, decided to display it in New York's City Hall for the duration of the Halley's Comet flyby.

It is a 2-color, 2-channel white light transmission "rainbow" hologram recorded with an argon laser. A single laser viewable 12"x16" hologram master plate, with two slits, was recorded first, and used to transfer the combined images to a second 8"x10" final hologram. One slit recorded an actual telescope, intended to be viewed as green, and is full length. The other slit, recording a 2D transparency of Halley's Comet, intended to be viewed as red, is a very short slit only visible when the viewer seems to be looking straight into the eyepiece of the telescope.

There are two versions of this hologram.

The first version was un laminated and installed at New York's City Hall by the Museum of Holography with overhead rear illumination. See [Figure 3](#), depicting standing, left to right in front of the installed hologram, David Katsive, director of the Museum of Holography in NY in 1986, Ed Koch, Mayor of NYC in 1986, and Joseph Burns, hologram artist who was commissioned to create the hologram. [Figure 4](#) shows a thank you letter sent to Burns by Mayor Koch.

White light transmission holograms, when displayed, have the delicate, easily damaged, silver halide emulsion facing the viewer. For this reason, most holograms produced for public display by Burns had been laminated to clear glass or a first surface glass mirror to protect the delicate silver halide emulsions. This one instead used a new process called VueGuard. VueGuard is a very thin protective transparent coating about one micron in thickness. VueGaurd makes the emulsion waterproof and allows it to be wiped with a damp cloth for cleaning without damage. The VueGuard UV cured spray process was originally developed to protect commercial music compact discs (CDs).

It is unknown what finally happened to the City Hall hologram.

The second version, [Figure 1](#) and [Figure 2](#), exhibited in a large hologram exhibition at Nabisco Corporation headquarters during the summer of 1991, was laminated to a first surface mirror so that it could be hung on a wall with overhead illumination, from the front, like a painting or photograph. When a white light transmission hologram is laminated to a first surface mirror, the hologram is reversed from side to side so that the emulsion surface faces away from the viewer and is protected against the mirror surface. This second version was part of a short video documentary produced by the Nabisco Corporation. This framed version is in the collection of Burns.

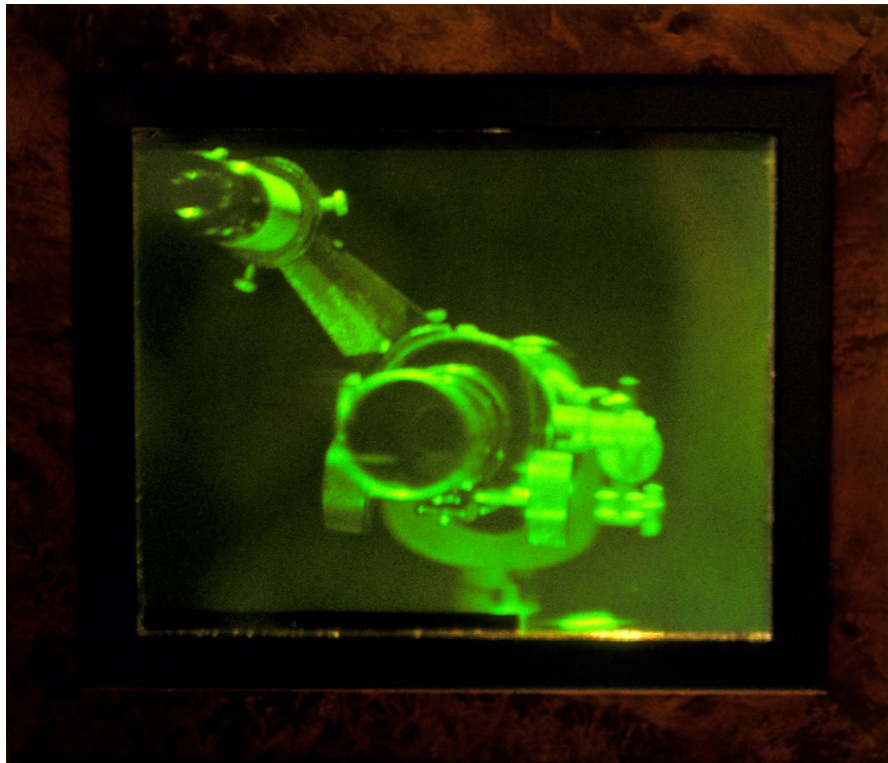


Figure 1 Telescope, framed and laminated to a first surface mirror for summer 1991 Nabisco Corporation HQ exhibition.

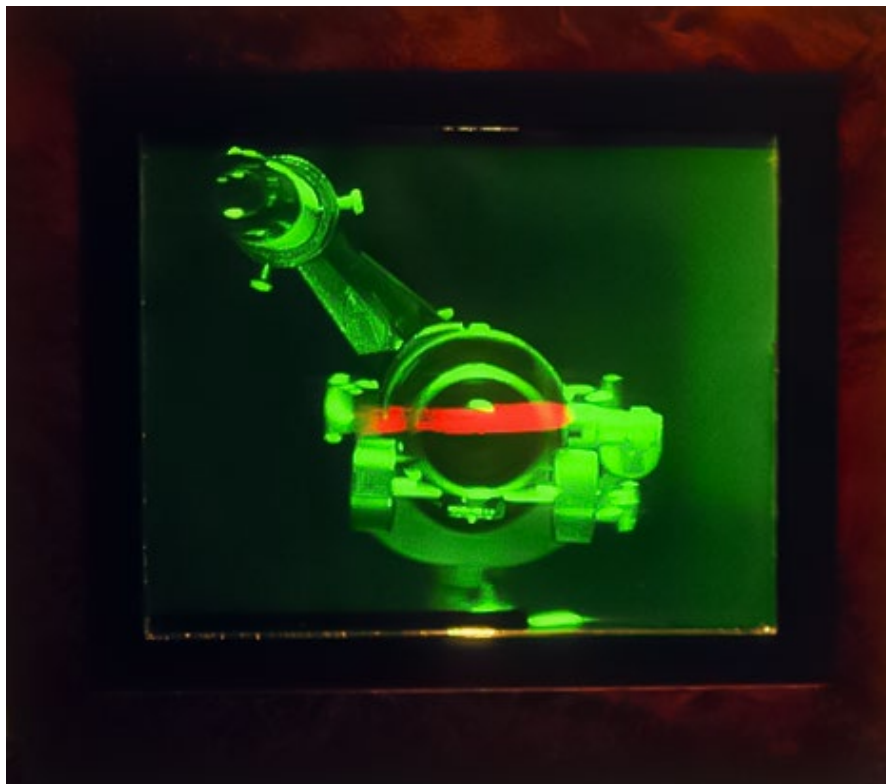


Figure 2 Telescope view centered on eyepiece with Halley's Comet visible.



Figure 3 Telescope hologram installation at NYC City Hall, L to R, Ed Katsive, Mayor Koch, Jody Burns.



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

August 22, 1986

Mr. Joseph Burns
Haloplate, Incorporated
1239 Central Avenue
Hillside, New Jersey 07205

Dear Jody:

As the artist who created the marvelous hologram which the Museum of Holography recently presented to the City, I want to thank you for what is clearly one of the most fascinating additions to City Hall in recent years.

Your piece never fails to be a source of great interest and discussion among those who work here as well as many visitors who frequent the building. Keep up the good work!

All the best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Koch", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Edward I. Koch
M A Y O R

EIK:peh

Figure 4 Letter from Mayor Ed Koch to hologram artist, Jody Burns.