NGC 2359, Thor's Helmet

This is my image of NGC 2359, Thor's Helmet, captured on my remotely operated setup in Castilléjar, Spain. Thor's Helmet is about 11,960 light years away in the constellation Canis Major. It's a classic target for imagers because of its unusual shape caused by a huge star in its center. That star is classified as a Wolf-Rayet star but apparently there is some uncertainty about whether the expansion of the surrounding gasses was produced at its O main sequence stage or later. The Wikipedia page on this object says it is expanding at different rates in different areas at speeds between 10 km/s to 30 km/s, so its age estimates are between 78,500 to 236,000 years.

This is a narrow band image that was processed as HOO with RGB stars. That means the Ha master was assigned to the red channel and OIII to the Green and blue channels. This is purely an artistic choice because I did shoot SII subs but ended up not using them because I preferred the colors I got from the HOO combination.

For the processors in the group: I have been experimenting more with Generalized Hyperbolic Stretch (GHS). I have become more comfortable with it after viewing Adam Block's "Stretch Academy" videos. I started with a traditional HT stretch but then used GHS subtly to develop more contrast in some areas. The exposures times are as follows:
Ha   120 x 300 seconds
OIII   120 x 300 seconds
Total 20 hours

RGB for stars only 86 x 180 seconds (4.3 hours, not really necessary to shoot RGB that long for just stars).

My Astrobin page link: https://astrob.in/f402gb/0/

Tom Engwall