



3rd floor – TIME

The enigma of time

What is time?

That's a question that no one can really answer.

Here in the exhibition, we want to explain it. Also, why we have less and less time.

Because many things here are so exciting, please be a little quiet.

Have fun exploring!

'What is time? If no one asks me, I know. If I want to explain it to someone who asks, I don't know'. This famous saying comes from Augustine, an important church father and philosopher who lived and taught in Italy around 400 AD. Basically, not much has changed in our understanding of time since then: Neither natural scientists nor humanists have figured out exactly what time is. Augustine thus makes it clear that in dealing with time we always fall into one of two traps: we simply take time for granted. It is simply 'there'. Then we find ourselves in the 'self-evident trap': time is not simply there. It changes according to our perception, according to social conditions and according to our own behaviour. This is what the 16 stations of our ZEIT room want to make tangible.

However, when we begin to think about time and determine it precisely, it becomes increasingly strange and uncanny. Is it a physical quantity? Is it given absolutely and uniformly, or is it only relative? Or is it only an inner sense to order the world? Does it 'really' exist at all? Or only in our perception? No one has yet solved this question - we find ourselves in the 'enigma trap'. Even after thousands of years of thinking about time, it has basically remained a mystery to us humans. Our time-space cannot solve the riddle, but it can make time perceptible, experienceable and tangible. Although we do not have our own physical sense of time - we cannot see, hear, taste, smell or feel it - we develop a sense for the temporality of our lives. This can be developed and refined. Try it out!