



Expectation

sgraffito 180x300 cm

V. Klička 1972

## What is time

For what is actually time?\*) Who can easily and briefly explain it? Who even in thought can comprehend it, even to the pronouncing of a word concerning it?

If no one ask of me, I know; if I wish to explain to him who asks, I know not. Yet I say with confidence, that I know that if nothing passed away, there would not be past time; and if nothing were coming, there would not be future time; and if nothing were, there would not be present time.

For if there are times past and future, I desire to know where they are. But wherever they are, they are not there as future or past, but as present. Although past things are related as true, they are drawn out from the memory, not the things themselves, which have passed, but the words conceived from the images of the things which they have formed in the mind as footprints in their passage through the senses. My childhood, indeed, which no longer is, is in time past, which now is not; but when I call to mind its image, and speak of it, I behold it in the present, because it is as yet in my memory.

Perhaps it might be fitly said, "There are three times; a present of things past, a present of things present, and a present of things future." For these three do somehow exist in the soul, and otherwise I see them not:

present of things past, *memory*;  
present of things present, *sight*;  
present of things future, *expectation*.

## We measure time by our spirit

I want to sing a song that I know. Before I begin, my attention is extended to the whole; but when I have begun, as much of it as becomes past by my saying it is extended in my memory; and the life of this action of mine is divided between my memory, on account of what I have repeated, and my expectation, on account of what I am about to repeat; yet my consideration is present with me, through which that which was future may be carried over so that it may become past. Which the more it is done and repeated, by so much (expectation being shortened) the memory is enlarged, until the whole expectation be exhausted, when that whole action being ended shall have passed into memory.

And what takes place in the entire song, takes place also in each individual part of it, and in each individual syllable: this holds in the longer action, of which that song is perchance a portion; the same holds in the whole life of man, of which all the actions of man are parts; the same holds in the whole age of the sons of men, of which all the lives of men are parts.

*Aurelius Augustinus  
Confessions, Book XI*

\*) physical definition: a nonspatial linear continuum wherein events occur in an apparently irreversible order