

# A journey through time lasting over three hours for those who are patient

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The performance 'Zeit/Temps' by the artist duo Billinger und Schulz premiered at the FFT Juta. Photo: Billinger-Schulz/Florian Krauß

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Sometimes time seems to fly, then at others it seems fixed, like lead. A banality that says more about our perceptions than the true nature of time that only becomes evident through ourselves. In the latest performance by Verena Billinger and Sebastian Schulz (Billinger und Schulz) 'Zeit / Temps' everything revolves on a wide range of levels around this "special" entity, time.

They stand there motionless – as if transported to our time from the 18th century by a time machine – like breathing, living waxwork figures. Gentle movements, executed with an almost morbid elegance, follow, a minuet is danced, then gentle touches, glances, poses. All very slow and silent. Slowness, taking your time, allowing time to burrow into the deepest depths of perception – unbearable in its presence – and breaking it is the unifying moment in this work that is not just overwhelming in length (the performance does last 210 minutes). Filled with nine performers who need no less stamina than the audience in the relatively sparse space of the FFT Juta – equipped only with stepped elevations – who are allowed to move around freely, sitting, standing, coming or going. Just like the characters in the piece dressed in opulently designed costumes each appropriate to the respective time. The main idea is a journey divided into four "times" or "epochs". After the rococo of the beginning, a brief stop in the Biedermeier period or perhaps later – it's hard to say – we end up in the 70s, and ultimately in the mercilessly portrayed techno ecstasy of the 90s. In between there are long extended phases of silence, in terms of both words and of spirit. It ends with a picnic that seems to never want to end where there's always time to dance another "Rheinländer" – and for which the performers wear local traditional costume.

Ultimately it is through their rigorous radicalism that Billinger und Schulz achieve a study of our own perception.