

Łódź, 30 October 2026

KRAKÓW HAS ITS OWN AXIS OF TIME. “TEMPUS FUGIT” SHOWS THE PASSAGE OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS AT A KRAKÓW CEMETERY

The “TEMPUS FUGIT” installation – a unique project combining geodesy, history, science and reflection on the passage of time – was presented at Podgórk Tynieckie Municipal Cemetery in Kraków, managed by Centrum Pogrzebowe Klepsydra. Its axis is the 50°N parallel running through the cemetery, whose position changes as the European continent slowly moves. It is the only installation of its kind at a cemetery in the world that embodies the idea of an inclusive cemetery. The event, organised by Centrum Pogrzebowe KLEPSYDRA, took place just before All Saints’ Day, giving the project an additional symbolic dimension.

The ceremonial presentation of the completed “TEMPUS FUGIT” installation – a geodetic monument to the passage of time and transience – was held under the honorary patronage of the Surveyor General of Poland.

“TEMPUS FUGIT” allows us to look at the passage of time from a perspective that extends far beyond a human lifetime. At Podgórk Tynieckie Municipal Cemetery, the course of the 50°N parallel and its historical and future positions resulting from the movement of the European continent have been marked.

“We wanted to show that a cemetery can be not only a place of remembrance and farewell, but also a space that encourages reflection, educates and allows us to look at our lives from a different perspective. “TEMPUS FUGIT” brings together science, history and the very universal experience of transience in one place. This is what makes the project unique,” said Rafał Cichewicz, President of Centrum Pogrzebowego KLEPSYDRA.

As he emphasises, the installation reflects a broader view of the contemporary role of a cemetery and the idea of an inclusive cemetery – a space open to different needs, experiences and ways of commemorating loved ones. Thanks to the installation, the cemetery becomes not only a place of burial, but also a space for education, reflection and contact with history, accessible to all visitors.

“Podgórk Tynieckie Cemetery, the youngest municipal cemetery in Kraków, is a place that continues to develop. We want it, alongside its primary function, to also be a space open to new ideas, education and culture. “TEMPUS FUGIT” is a very good example of this approach – it allows us to pause for a moment and look at time, history and human life from a completely different perspective,” added Rafał Cichewicz.

The Parallel as a Clock

Projekt wykorzystuje zjawisko dryfu kontynentalnego. Teren Krakowa przemieszcza się w kierunku północno-wschodnim, dlatego względem powierzchni Ziemi położenie równoleżnika 50°N zmienia się z każdym rokiem. Zgodnie z wyliczeniami wykorzystanymi w instalacji po 10 latach różnica wyniesie około 15,5 cm, po 100 latach – 1,55 m, a po tysiącu lat – 15,5 m.



W przestrzeni cmentarza zjawisko to zostało przedstawione jako swoista **geodezyjna oś czasu**. Instalacja została pomyślana tak, aby można było odczytywać ją jak zegar – tyle że zamiast sekund, minut i godzin pokazuje setki i tysiące lat. Stalowa szyna odpowiada rocznemu przemieszczeniu równoleżnika, a kolejne oznaczenia pozwalają odnieść ten ruch do historii człowieka.

The timeline includes, among others, 966 – the baptism of Mieszko I, 1257 – the foundation of Kraków, 1410 – the Battle of Grunwald, 1609 – the relocation of the royal court from Kraków to Warsaw, and 1918 – Poland regaining independence. The installation also shows selected future positions of the parallel.

“TEMPUS FUGIT shows in a very literal way that time is not an abstract concept. We can see its passage recorded in space and, at the same time, realise how small a fragment of history an individual human life represents. A cemetery is a place where reflection on transience comes naturally, which is why combining it with science and geodesy has a particular meaning here,” added Rafał Cichewicz.

Geodesy Meets History

The geodetic concept of the installation was created by Kraków-based surveyor Mariusz Meus, known as “Pan Południk”. He made use of the unique location of Podgórk Tynieckie Municipal Cemetery, through which the 50°N parallel runs.

“TEMPUS FUGIT” was first presented in 2024 in connection with the International Convention of the World Federation of Funeral Service Organisations and Companies FIAT-IFTA in Kraków. The installation was placed under the patronage of the Surveyor General of Poland and was presented as the first project of its kind to use a geographic coordinate line within a cemetery.

This year’s presentation took place just before All Saints’ Day. At this special time, when attention turns to remembering loved ones and reflecting on transience, the installation offered a perspective on these issues that extends far beyond a human lifetime.

A Cemetery as a Place of Remembrance, History and Education

Podgórk Tynieckie Municipal Cemetery is the youngest municipal cemetery in Kraków and is being developed under a public-private partnership with the Municipality of Kraków. Centrum Pogrzebowe KLEPSYDRA is responsible for its development and management. The cemetery is being developed in stages and includes, among other facilities, a crematorium, ceremonial chapel, columbaria and additional cemetery sections.

The development of the cemetery responds to the changing needs of residents and also includes new solutions related to ecology, technology and ways of commemorating the deceased. “TEMPUS FUGIT” is another example of expanding the functions of the cemetery to include education, culture and space for reflection.

The name of the installation – “TEMPUS FUGIT”, meaning “time flies” – takes on a special significance in this place. The parallel, which appears unchanged on a map, is in fact moving



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with the continent. People can observe this movement in centimetres and metres while also seeing how small a part of the Earth's history their own life represents.

It is precisely this combination of scientific precision and the universal experience of transience that makes "TEMPUS FUGIT" more than a geodetic installation – it has become part of the unique space of Podgórk Tynieckie Municipal Cemetery.

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ABOUT GRUPA KLEPSYDRA

Grupa Klepsydra S.A. (WSE: KLE) is a leader in the Polish funeral services market and the only company from this segment listed on the Warsaw Stock Exchange. Grupa Klepsydra provides comprehensive funeral services, offering its clients support at every stage of the funeral process. The company's strategic objective is to consolidate the Polish funeral services market and build a strong funeral services group in Poland. The capital group currently comprises 12 companies and 4 modern crematoria.

Companies within the capital group:

1. **Firma Pogrzebowa „Klepsydra”** w Łodzi,
2. **Przedsiębiorstwo Usług Komunalnych** w Krakowie (**PUK Kraków**),
3. **Sotor** w Toruniu,
4. **Styks** w Lublinie,
5. **PUK Lublin**,
6. **Przedsiębiorstwo Usług Komunalnych „USKOM”** w Szczecinie,
7. **Centrum Pogrzebowe Zieleni Miejska** w Bielsku-Białej,
8. **Centrum Pogrzebowe GLORIA** we Wrocławiu,
9. **Centrum Pogrzebowe „Klepsydra”** w Krakowie, która w partnerstwie publiczno-prywatnym z Miastem Kraków zbudowała krematorium, dom pogrzebowy oraz 4 ha cmentarza komunalnego w Krakowie,
10. **Bongo Międzynarodowe Usługi Pogrzebowe** z Warszawy, specjalizująca się w transgranicznym transporcie osób zmarłych i ich prochów,
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12. **eKlepsydra** - pierwsza w Polsce elektroniczna klepsydra, która umożliwia poinformowanie w łatwy sposób o śmierci bliskich oraz o terminie ceremonii pogrzebowej.

Grupa Klepsydra is a modern, family-owned company with traditions. It has more than 60 years of experience in the funeral services sector in Poland, and its success is built by managers with several decades of experience in the industry.

Its extensive offering, comprehensive infrastructure and many years of experience enable Grupa Klepsydra to provide services to both individual and business clients (eKlepsydra, cemetery management and cremation services).

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