

EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

According to Aristotle, man has five senses. Others talk about six or seven, while according to Rudolf Steiner and his anthroposophical theory of the senses, we possess as many as twelve. How many senses we have is, therefore, also a matter of taste.

The importance of our senses in our lives becomes apparent when we lose one. People with hearing disorders, for example, find it difficult to make contact with other people. But a new technology is set to make hearing easier for those who cannot benefit from hearing aids. A crucial element in this process is a light-sensitive protein that originates from algae.

Hearing is one thing, but how we perceive what we hear is another. That applies particularly to music: culture and listening habits determine how we perceive rhythms. Be they indigenous peoples in the Amazon, people in Korea, or in the United States – every cultural group has its own musical world in mind. One popular children's game helps scientists investigate the different perceptions of rhythms.

Other senses, meanwhile, are somewhat alien to us. The sense of magnetic fields, for example. Birds have it, along with amphibians, fish, and bats. And mole rats. These rodents with their monstrous incisors perceive the earth's magnetic field and can navigate their underground colonies in this way. In a labyrinth, the animals demonstrate their orientation skills for science.

We hope you enjoy this issue!

Your editorial team