

## Wilhelm Leibl, *The Newspaper Reader* (1891)

### Abstract

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The artist Wilhelm Leibl (1844–1900) dedicated himself to realistic but sensitive portrayals of everyday life in rural Germany. This painting shows an older peasant reading the *Münchener Neueste Nachrichten*. Leibl's implied commentary on the ceremonial, gendered nature of newspaper reading (and the similarly gendered public discourse in which well-informed readers were supposed to participate) is amplified by the presence of two women who sit quietly in the background, gazing at each other but not engaging in conversation.

### Source

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Source: Wilhelm Leibl, *Der Zeitungsleser* [*The Newspaper Reader*] (1891). Original: Folkwang Museum Essen. Reproduction: *The Yorck Project: 10.000 Meisterwerke der Malerei*. DVD-ROM, 2002. Distributed by DIRECTMEDIA Publishing GmbH and made available on Wikimedia Commons, [www.commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:Wilhelm\\_Maria\\_Hubertus\\_Leibl\\_005.jpg](http://www.commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:Wilhelm_Maria_Hubertus_Leibl_005.jpg)

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