

## Anton von Werner, *The Unveiling of the Richard Wagner Monument in Berlin* (1908)

### Abstract

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A statue of composer Richard Wagner (1813-1883) by Gustav Eberlein (1847-1926), one of the most important representatives of the Wilhelmine art establishment, was unveiled on October 3, 1903. Five years later, Prussian court painter Anton von Werner (1843-1915) portrayed the festive ceremony in the painting below. Dressed in his parade uniform, Prince Eitel Friedrich (1883-1942), the second son of Wilhelm II appears at the center of the scene. He greets cosmetics manufacturer Ludwig Leichner, who commissioned the sculpture and this painting. After graduating in chemistry, Leichner had initially pursued a career as a baritone, specializing in Wagner roles. His invention of lead-free make-up made him an extremely wealthy entrepreneur and patron of the arts. Eberlein stands to Leichner's left, along with a group of Berlin artists. The group includes the painter Adolph von Menzel (1815-1905), who gave a celebratory speech on the occasion.

### Source

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Source: Anton von Werner, *Enthüllung des Richard-Wagner Denkmals im Tiergarten*, oil on canvas, 1908. Berlinische Galerie. Accessed via wikimedia commons [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3AWerner\\_Enth%C3%BCllung\\_Wagner-Denkmal\\_1908\\_mit\\_Rahmen.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3AWerner_Enth%C3%BCllung_Wagner-Denkmal_1908_mit_Rahmen.jpg)

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