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Front Matter

Antipodes Editors

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Cover Art

The Three Sisters

PERCY ALEXANDER LEASON

Oil on canvas, 1944

49 in × 39.25 in

Percy Leason (1889–1959) was a leading exponent of the Australian Tonalist school of painting, led by Max Meldrum. In early twentieth-century Australia, this style of painting was seen as wildly advanced, shortly to be overtaken by European avant-garde styles such as cubism and abstraction. Leason was very outspoken about his belief that art must concern itself with tangible realities. Leason left his native Australia, where he was established as a painter and popular cartoonist, exemplified by his Wiregrass series published in *Table Talk*. He lived on Staten Island from 1939 until his death in 1959. He worked as an illustrator, cartoonist, art teacher, and fine artist both in Australia and in New York for over forty years. He was extremely active in the Staten Island Museum's Art Section and was instrumental in the purchase of a major painting by Jasper Francis Cropsey. He was also an amateur scholar of Paleolithic art, having developed his "dead animal" theory based on his studies of wall paintings and his observations that the animals depicted were in attitudes that could be seen when they are prone in death.

Leason was a versatile painter of landscapes, figure studies, portraits, and still life. His best work has clarity of color and construction and summary execution wherein forms are rendered in color patches that come together at some distance from the canvas to convey a convincing reality.