

Grown Up (Quennington) Paul Tuppeny 2022

The sculpture is all about how natural things change and grow with time.

You might have noticed that the things around you are always changing; trees grow, fruit ripens and skin wrinkles. The fact is that our world is characterised by change. This could be very confusing if, for example, when we returned to a tree that we had last seen in the winter to find it covered with leaves, we thought it was a completely different tree.



Aristotle, 384-322 BCE

However, as the Ancient Greek philosopher, Aristotle, noticed, we do not recognise the things around us just by their 'substance', but we also know them by their 'nature', the way that they change. He believed that, for us, this nature, or 'change-story', was a part of the object.

If we look at the things that we eat, a juicy red apple for instance, we can see how useful it is to know the way that things change, their nature. As you know, apples slowly grow from blossom flowers on apple trees and get bigger and bigger until they reach a point where they contain lots of sugar and they are ready to eat. After this, though, they tend to fall from the tree, get eaten by small animals and go rotten, so there is only a very short time that the apple is of any use to us as food. It is important, then, to know when this moment is coming (and when it arrives) and we do this by checking (subconsciously in our minds) how far the apple has got in its 'change-story' every time we see one. It is actually in our nature to do this with *all* objects so, every time we see *anything*, we mentally 'measure' where it has got up to in its change-story. We 'see' our mind's change measurements as an object's 'age'.

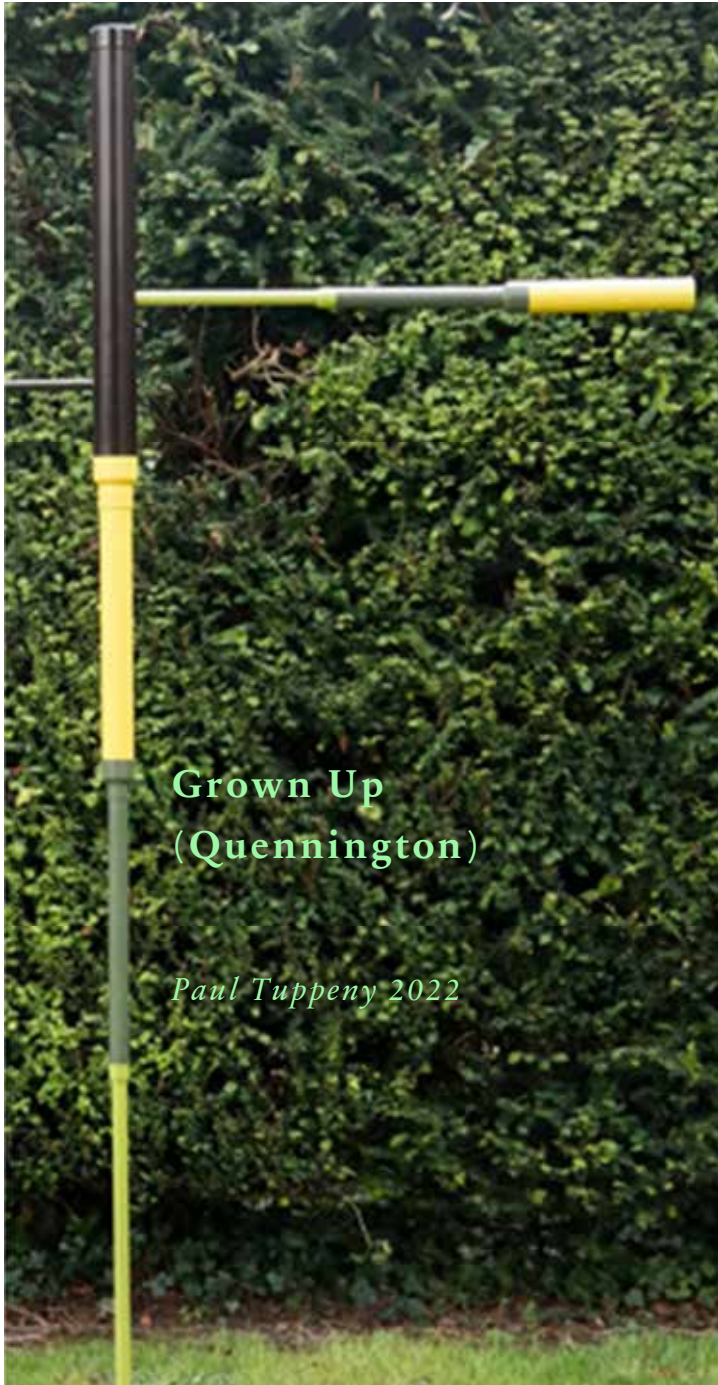
Of course, people change as well. We start as babies but grow into children and then adults (who have children themselves) and eventually become old people. We 'age' like everything else.

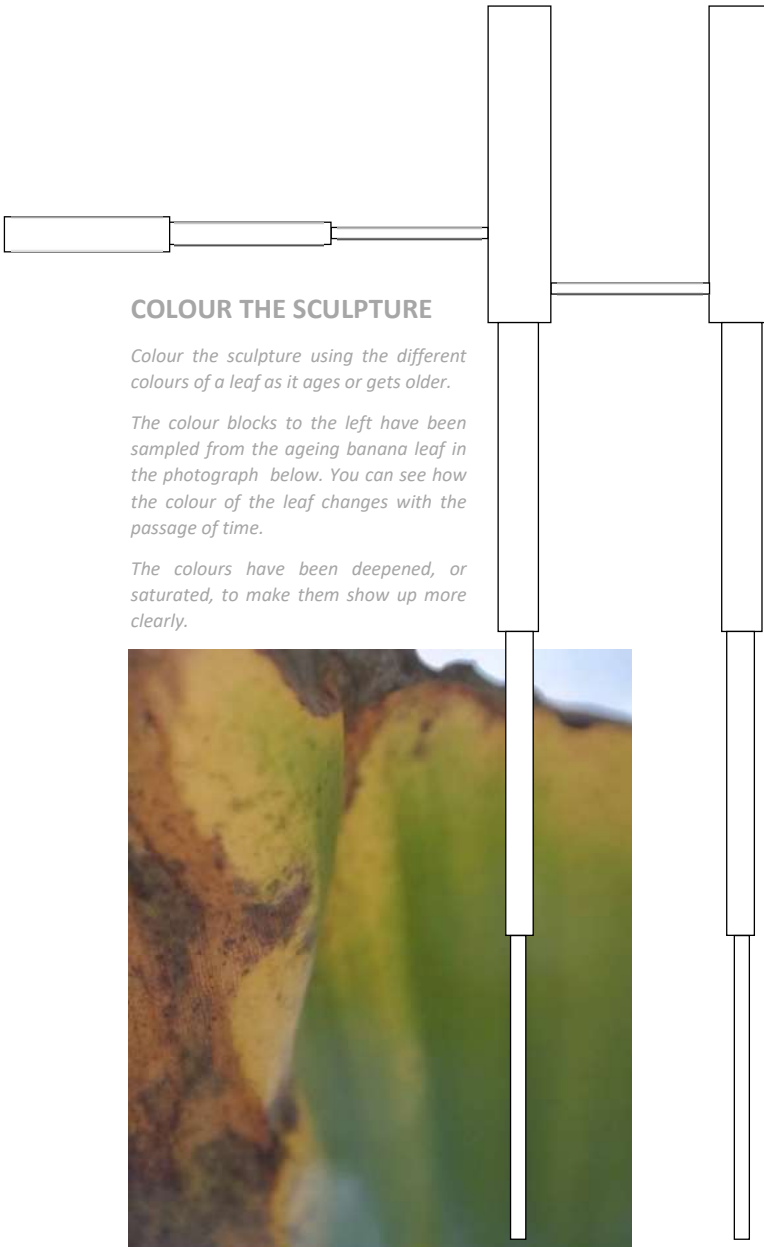
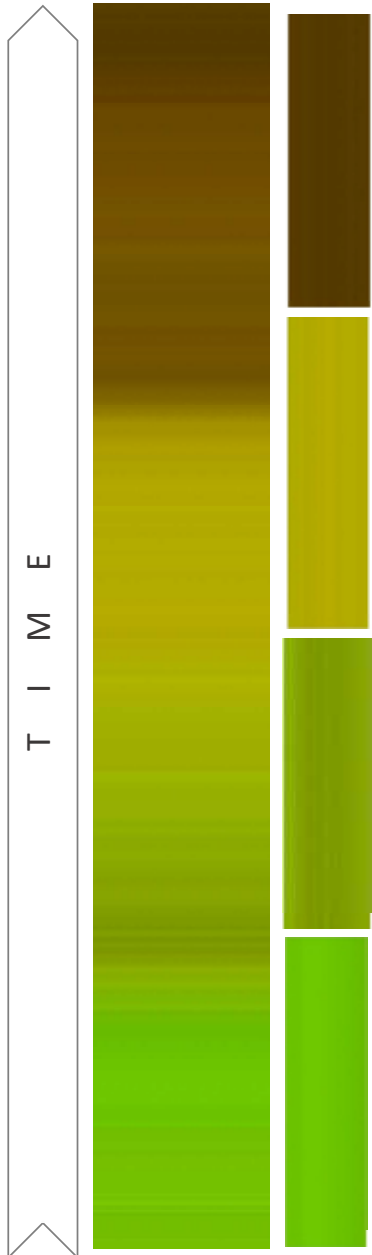
When I made this sculpture, I wanted to show a figure that both *measures* and *is* measured. Like us, the sculpture grows wider as it grows taller. The arms are similarly structured but they are outstretched and suggest the act of measuring.

The colours of the sculpture at Quennington are taken from the changing colours of leaves as they get older. The colours are made stronger and applied in bands so the sculpture looks a bit like a measuring rod, or ruler.

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COLOUR THE SCULPTURE

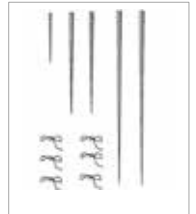
Colour the sculpture using the different colours of a leaf as it ages or gets older.

The colour blocks to the left have been sampled from the ageing banana leaf in the photograph below. You can see how the colour of the leaf changes with the passage of time.

The colours have been deepened, or saturated, to make them show up more clearly.



1. You will need to find 5 sticks, 2 long ones, 2 medium and 1 short one. It does not matter if they are not very straight or a bit knobbly. You will also need 6 short pieces of wire or string.



2. First tie the thin end of a medium stick across the thicker end of one of the long sticks using a piece of wire or string.



3. Then, tie the thicker end of the other long stick to the medium stick (one of our long sticks had a flower on it but do not be confused by this).



4. After that, place the thin end of the other medium stick to the opposite side and tie it to the two long sticks and the other medium stick.



5. Finally, place the short stick across the long sticks a little way down from where the medium sticks join them. Tie both ends of the short stick to the long sticks.



6. You have finished.



BUILD THE SCULPTURE