



**DETAILS**  
Bronze, Corten steel  
3020 x 4100 x 1060 mm  
2012

# *The Choice, 2012*

**THE CHOICE WAS PART OF A SERIES SCULPTOR PAUL DIBBLE ORIGINALLY DEVELOPED IN 2012.**

*These sculptures used the media of Corten, with its characteristic rust red / brown coating, as an addition to his normal material of bronze.*

Together they create an interesting contrast. The tree is constructed in a manner more akin to engineering than traditional art, with straight angles and struts. The boy however, modelled on the artist's son, who attended the school, is classically rendered using established techniques of clay over an armature. The tree is an apple tree, with all its biblical associations and the boy's choice of apple is metaphor for life's choices, in things that will go on to affect his future. A flock of piwakawaka, roosting in the tree, watch this moment as witnesses.

#### **FUN FACT**

Paul began his career teaching, for many years at a college in Dargaville. He really enjoyed working with adolescent youth.





This sculpture was purchased by Rathkeale College after the artist's death. It was opened on August 22, 2025 at an event titled Founder's Day, which celebrated the school's 100th birthday, dedicated to Faye and John Norman who founded the school, John as the first principal.

*The model for the boy figure was the artist's youngest son Daniel Dibble.*

**FUN FACT**

Piwakawaka are birds in Māori mythology that are often referred to as "messenger birds", frequently associated with news of grief and death. They also symbolise a reminder to be honest and true.