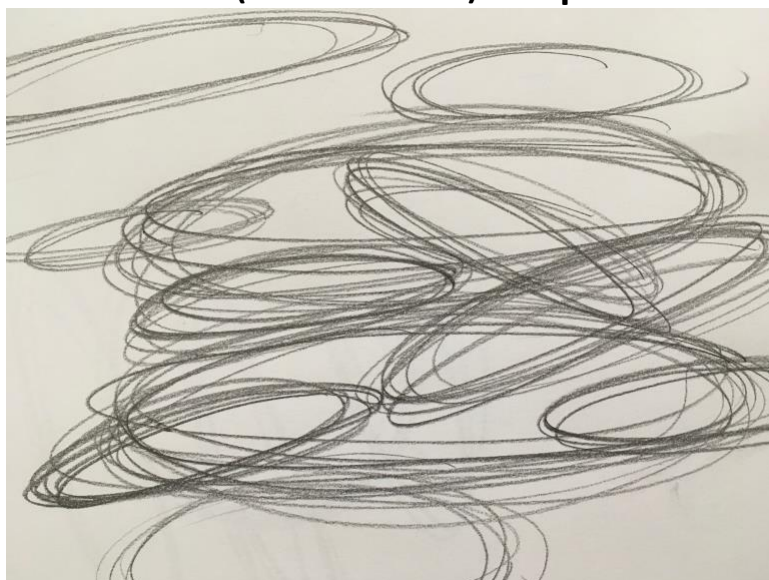


## Newark Community Art Club with Elaine Winter

### Session no. 34 (Summer Term): Ellipses



**Introduction.** An ellipse is a shape we end up drawing regularly. It is a stretched circle and we need to do them when drawing bowls, cups, bottles and so on. If we get better skills at drawing ellipses it can really make a massive improvement to our still life and other work. This exercise will help you to practice and improve.

#### **What you will need:**

Biro pens x 2

Pencil, rubber, sharpener

White paper x 2 sheets – large if possible

**Step 1** Drawing anything takes practice and ellipses are no different to anything else. So the first thing to do is to get a sheet of paper and if at all possible a big sheet and relax your hands and wrists and draw circles in a clockwise motion repeatedly. Then do the same anti-clockwise. When you draw them don't just do so with one circular line but over lay with several lines.

**Step 2** Again with biro, and again using multiple lines to 'find' the circle draw tiny circles and then large ones.

**Step 3.** Take a biro in each hand and draw circles simultaneously with both hands. Note you can let the circles you are drawing overlap each other on the same sheet, you don't need to keep them separate, this is just an exercise.

**Step 4** Once you have loosened up and got lots of circles, try elongating them to form ellipses and go through the same stages as described for circles. Use an extra sheet of paper if you need to.

**Step 5** Try out your ellipses by getting yourself some objects to draw which need them so gather things like cups, bowls, glasses, bottles and this time using a pencil try drawing them singly first and check how your ellipses look. Use the same multiple lines method to find the right ellipse and rub out the ones that are not how you see them. If you have time place several of your objects into a still life arrangement and draw it with special attention to the ellipses.