**Newark Community Art Club with Elaine Winter**

**Session 8: Negative Space Drawings**

**Materials needed:**

Pencil, rubber, sharpener

White paper to draw on (any size you like to work on and whatever you have at hand) – ideally several sheets

**Introduction: What is negative space? To understand it we need to understand line and shape first. So, for example if we were to set up a small still life arrangement on a table made up of a bowl of fruit, a mug and plate with a slice of toast on it with the intention of drawing it, normally we would make a line drawing of the objects that make up that still life and then work on filling in the details of the objects. A negative space drawing still looks at line but you are using line to draw the (negative) space around and between objects and nothing more and then you can use that negative space as the actual object of your drawing.**

**Activity 1:** Practice negative space with one object first. Place something such as a teapot, jug, ornament etc on a table top in front of you and draw using line only the space around it. No internal lines at all, so all you have is the outline of the shape of the object.

**Activity 2**: Now make an arrangement of several objects so add in other items. Now try to draw the line around the whole arrangement so in other words draw the negative space around the arrangement. This takes concentration and you really need to notice how the objects relate to each other.

**Activity 3:** Look at the negative space line drawing you have. Keeping the internal (positive) space completely blank now use shading and/or colour to make your negative space (the space around the outside of the lines) interesting. Go wild if you like!

**Activity 4: Clear up!**