



## Design and designing

### *Drawing ovals*

Activity Sixteen, it's about practising drawing ovals. Let me demonstrate some of the ovals. Something that drawing ovals requires is a movement of not just your fingers but your wrist as well and for some of the larger ovals perhaps even your elbow and your whole shoulder. We'll be drawing some larger ovals a bit later on. Let's look at some characteristics of these ovals. They have a major axis which runs through the middle there. They have another axis, a minor axis, which runs about there. So what we are trying to get is an oval in our sketches which is symmetrical about both of these axes, that is symmetrical about the vertical axis and the horizontal axis. If we can achieve that then you are ready to draw or use them in all sorts of sketches. One of the good ways of testing whether your ovals are coming out accurately is to turn your paper upside down. Often the bulges show up more obviously when you look at it upside down rather than the right way up. So this activity is about just loosening up, loosening up your fingers, loosening up your drawing and I suggest you might just want to get the hang of moving your hand around the paper without even touching the pen or pencil to your paper, just get the hang of that movement which is happening at the wrist and the elbow and at the shoulder. It's all about loosening up. Don't worry if they are not working out, in fact you can just throw the sheet of paper away if it's not working out but just keep practising and I've suggested in this activity that you try and enlarge both the major axes and the minor axes so that you get ovals of different shapes and you are beginning to – as you can see on these ones – increase that minor axis and of course if you increased it to be the same length of the major axis you'd end up with a complete circle, but for now we are just looking at small and large ellipses. Just sketch them in comfortably, and I'll change pen, just get the hang of that movement. It is quite economic on paper because you can just keep going over and over it, that's all we're trying to do, is develop that skill and when you can draw some small ones and large ones, you'll be in a position to tackle the next activity.