

Observations on the Potato Shelf

Yuqing Lei

Why boring?

Each chosen location actually reflects a method of observation because it means that we are choosing from a myriad of locations.

So, let me go back to that question: why do I think it's boring?

It's too much in line with my experience and common sense. It means that I could call on existing experience to understand it, so I was able to instantly build up a stereotype of what a supermarket should look like.



The underground is different



The bus is different



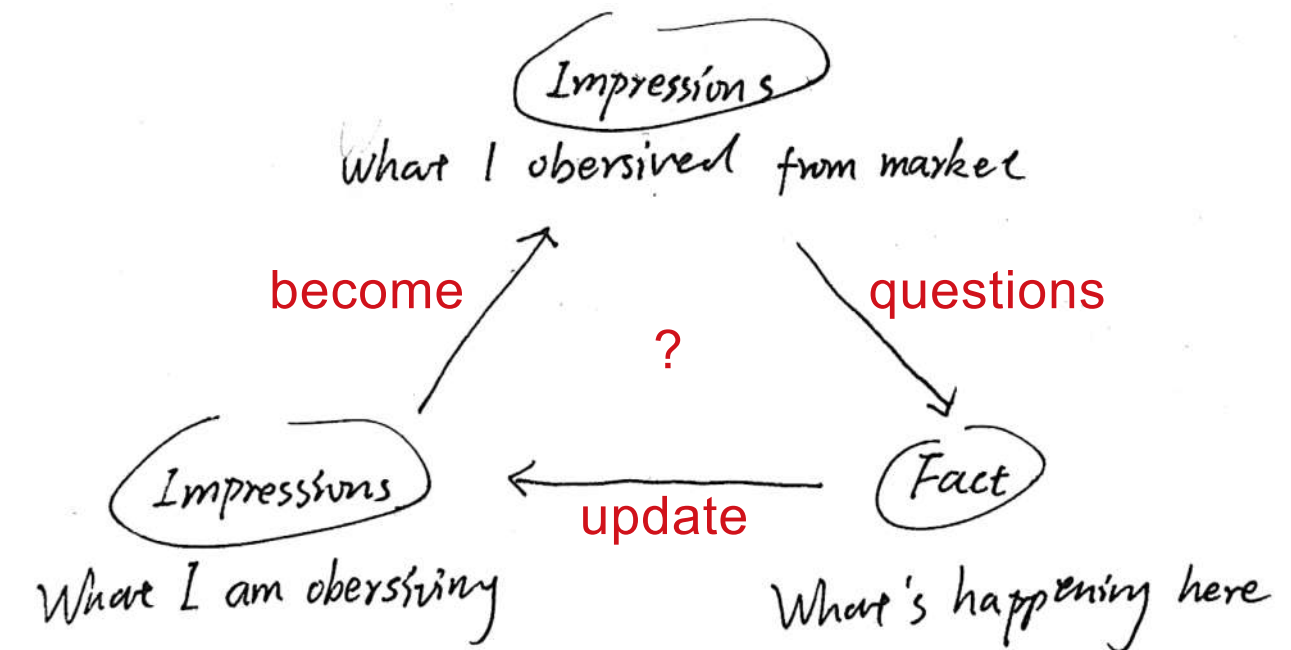
But the supermarket?

So

A supermarket belike:
A candle that has burned out,
An object whose possibilities have been drained,
A term understood and imagined by everyone,
A gaze that is stingy in giving a little more.

I want to see if I could find new ways of looking
at and observing something that we are so
familiar with that we are tired of it. This is one of
the important meanings of the word "observation"

(Like Impressionism?)

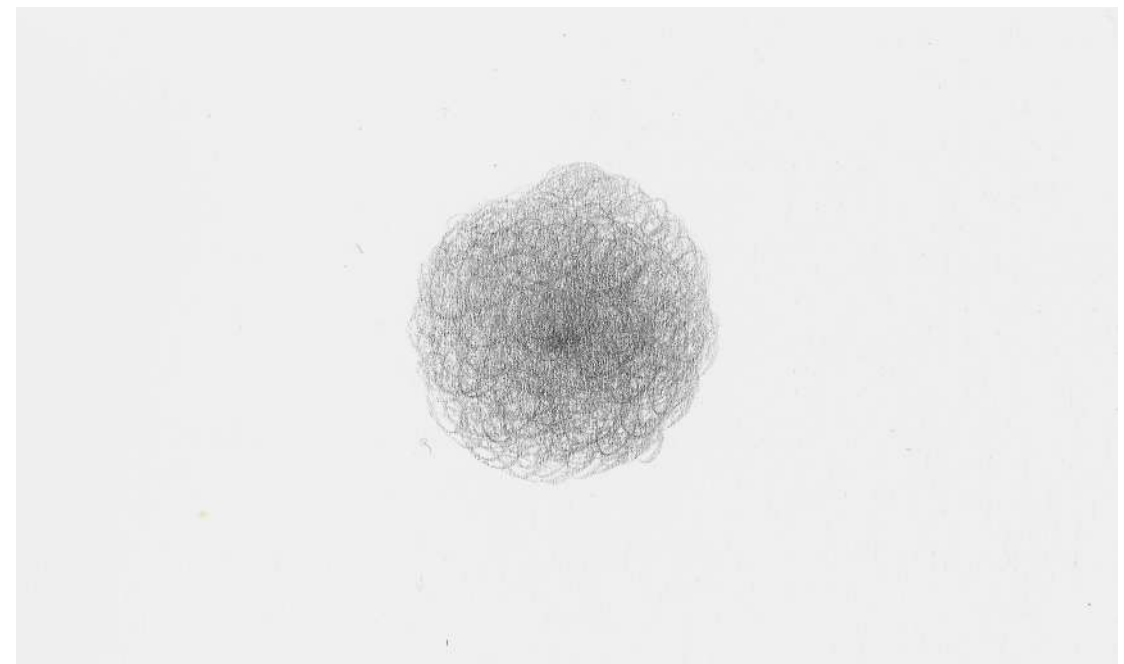


Impressions

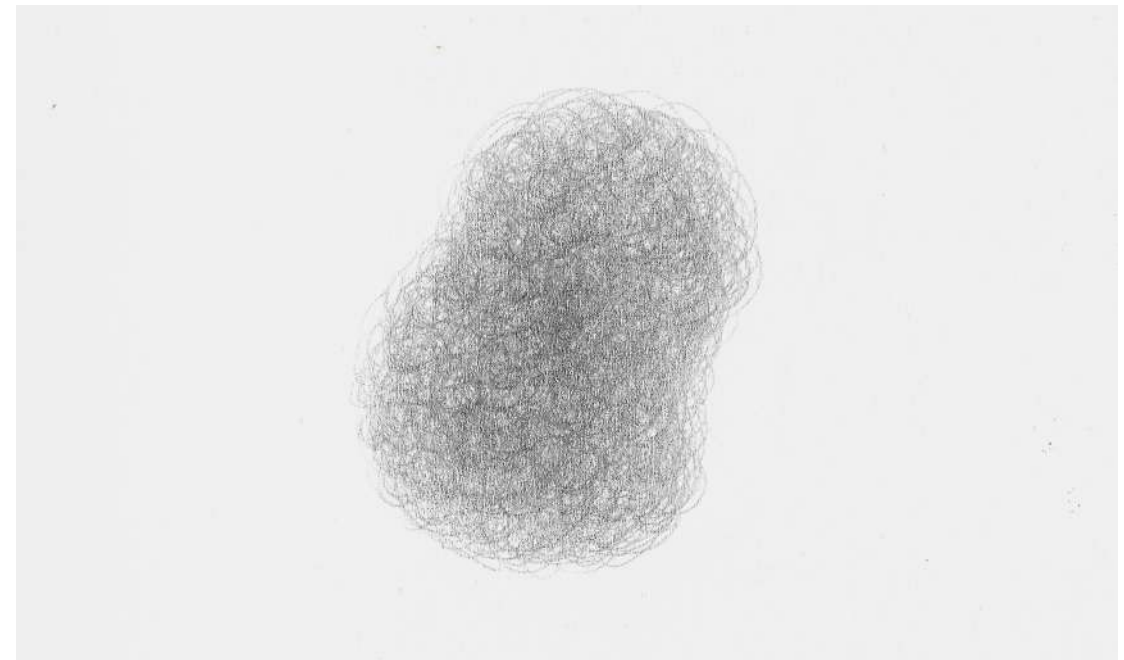
So I chose the potato shelf of this supermarket.
Potatoes are usually the most common thing I buy
in supermarkets.

Firstly, I did my best to portray the potato as I
remembered it: this is the impression left in my
memory of the potatoes as I observed it in my
past experience.

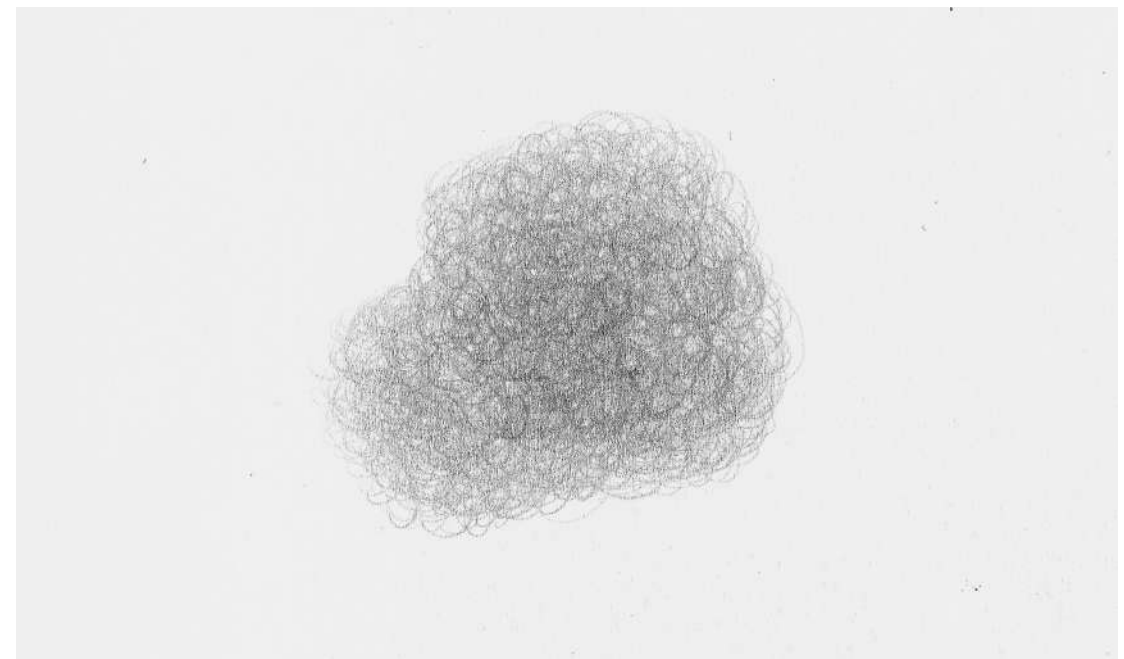
Volume



baby potato



common
potato

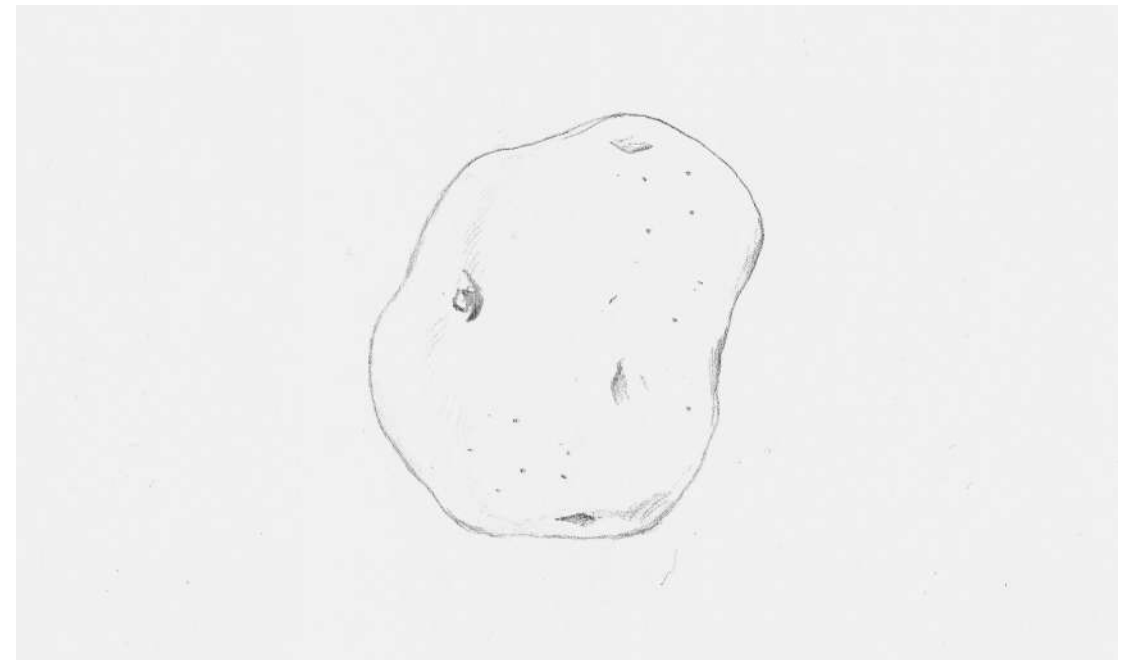


strangest
potato

Surface



baby potato

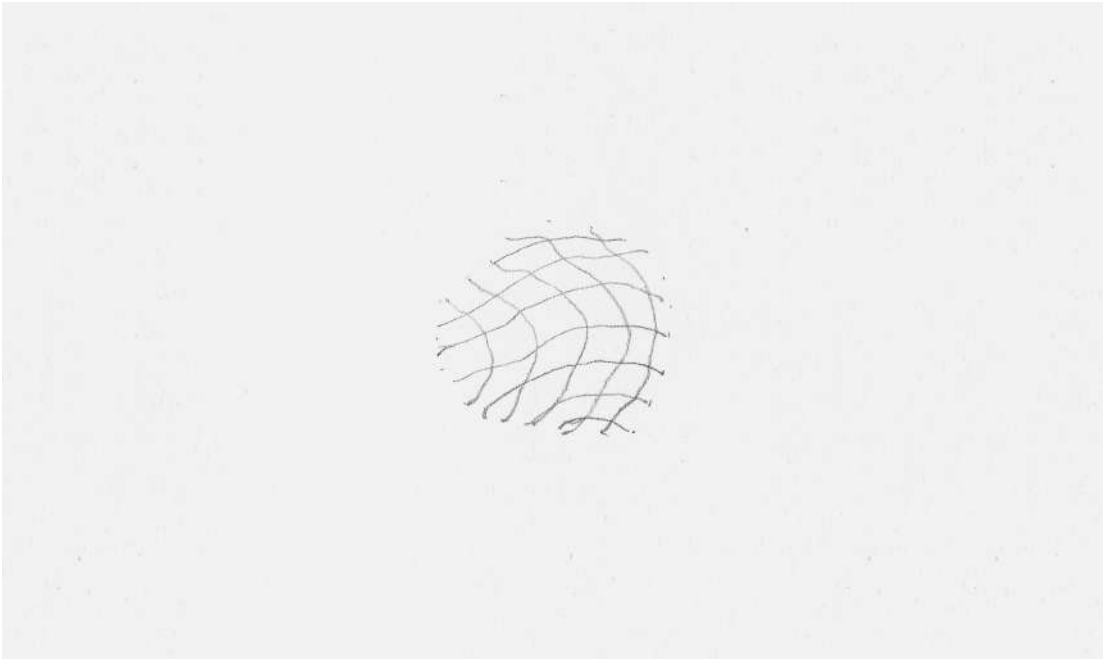


common
potato

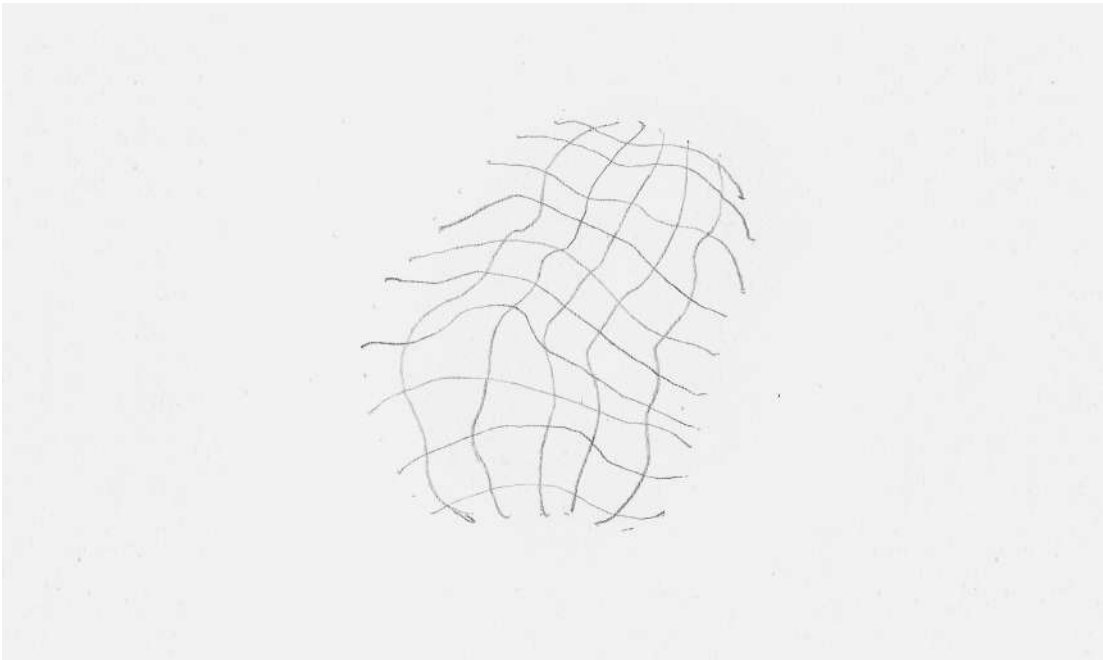


strangest
potato

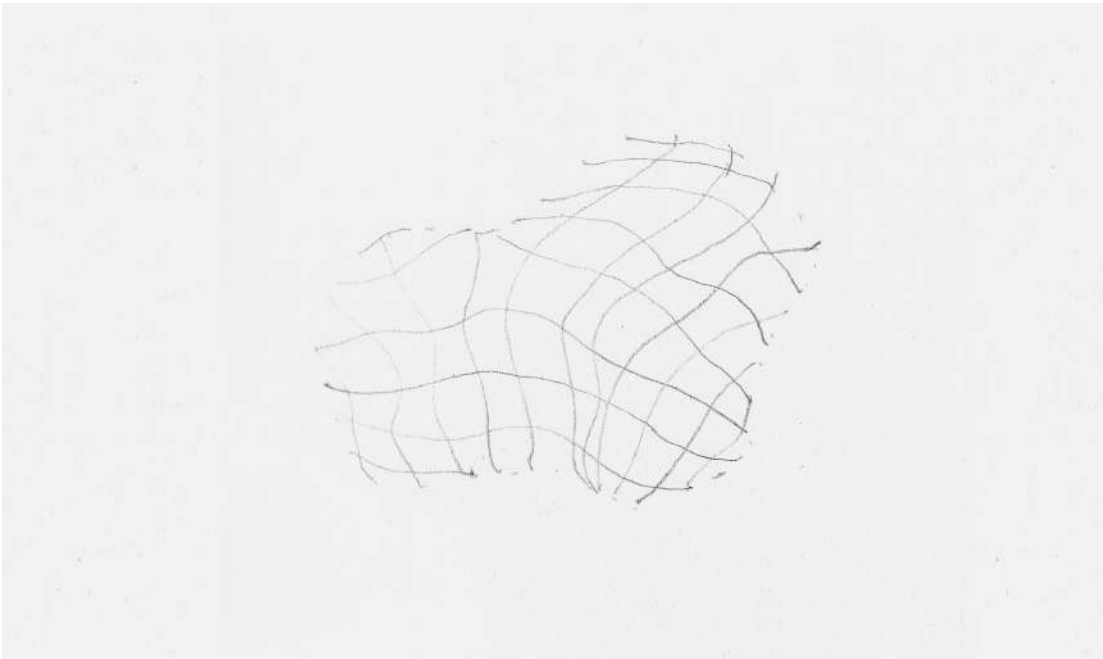
Structure



baby potato

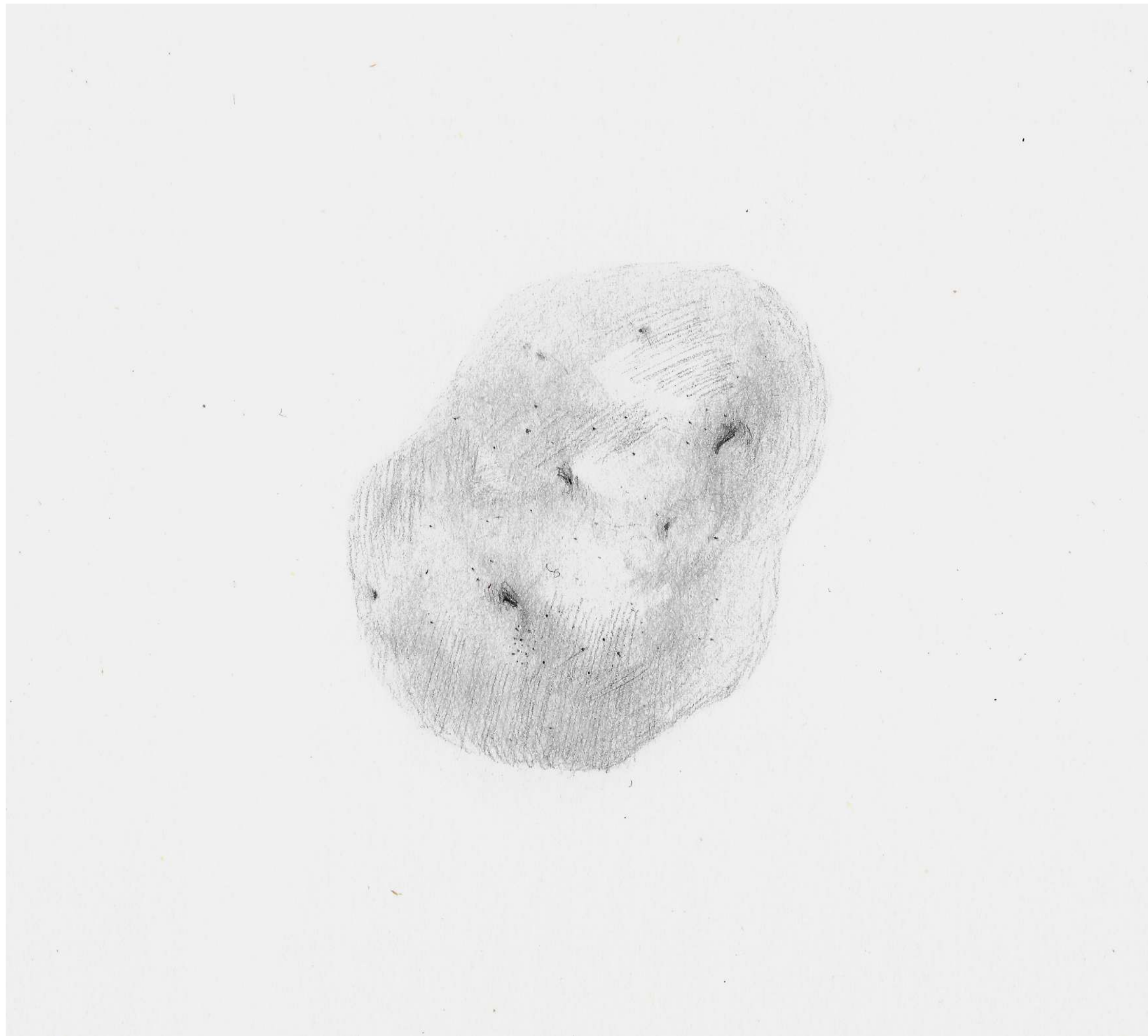


common
potato



strangest
potato

The most specific one



The fact

Then I went into the supermarket and looked carefully at the potatoes sold on the shelves. Here are some things that are different from what I expected:

(1) Supermarkets here have entire shelves dedicated to potatoes.



1. Baking potatoes
2. Essential wonderfully wonky potatoes
3. Essential potatoes
4. Waitrose British royal white potatoes
5. Essential large ~
6. Red ~
7. Morris piper pover
8. Albert Bartlett ~
9. King Edward ~
10. Red king Edward pover
11. Albert Bartlett baking ~
12. Albert Bartlett golden belle ~
13. Waitrose red lady pover
14. Loose British baby ~
15. Evangeline sweet ~
16. Baby new ~
17. Essential sweet ~
18. Miniature ~
19. Essential loose British ~
20. Ruby gem ~
21. La ratte ~
22. Essential British baby ~

The fact

In my country it is almost impossible to find bagged potatoes.

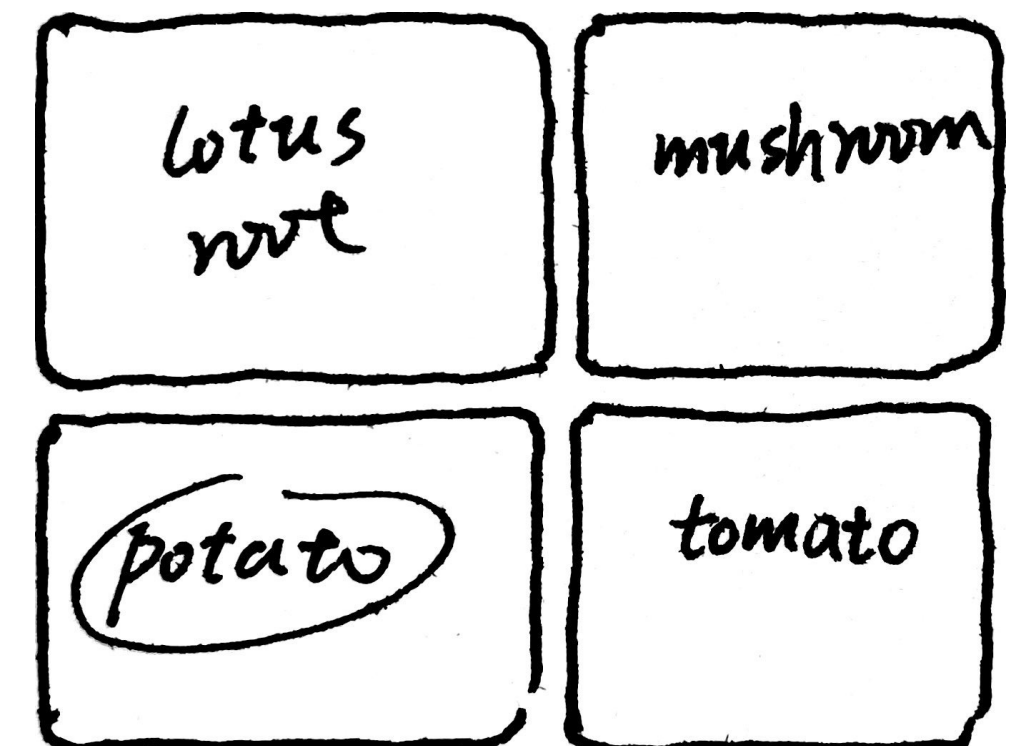
There are no red or orange potatoes, and even thin-skinned yellow potatoes are rare.



The fact

I asked my parents in China to help take pictures when they went to the supermarket. The potato shelf in our country looks like this:

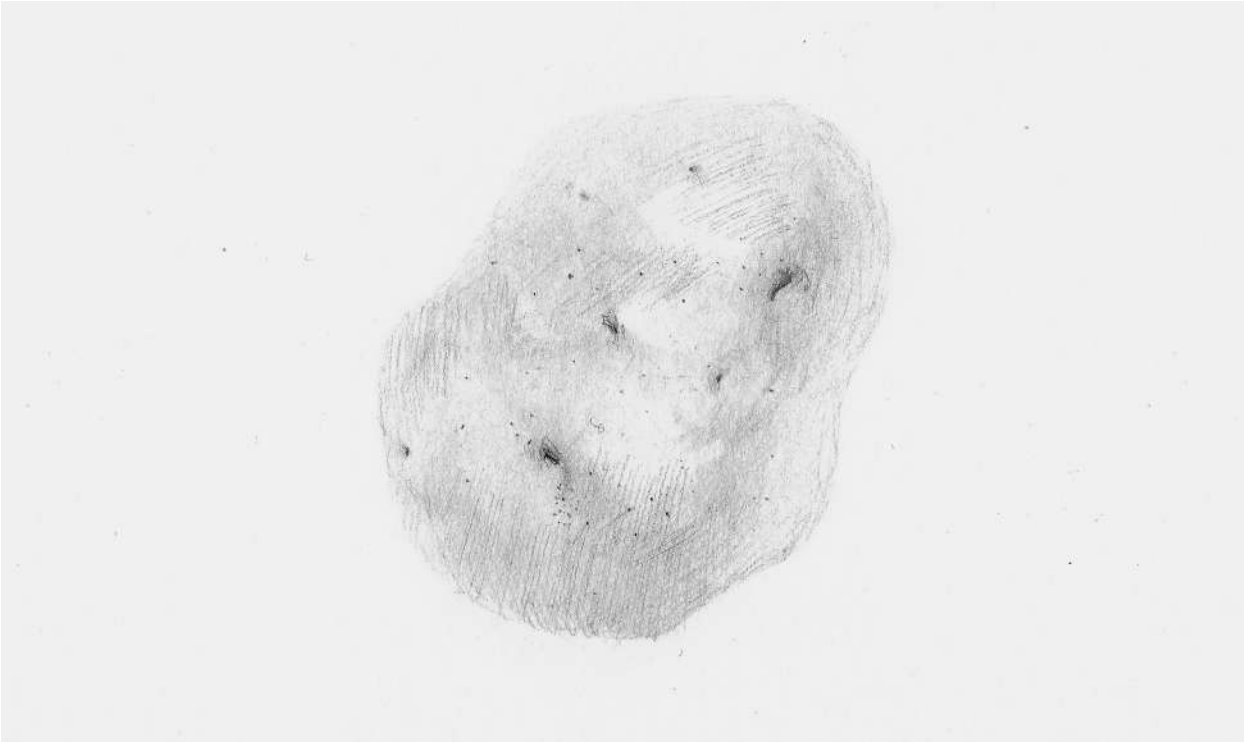
They are really different.



The fact

(2) The one that best fits my imagination

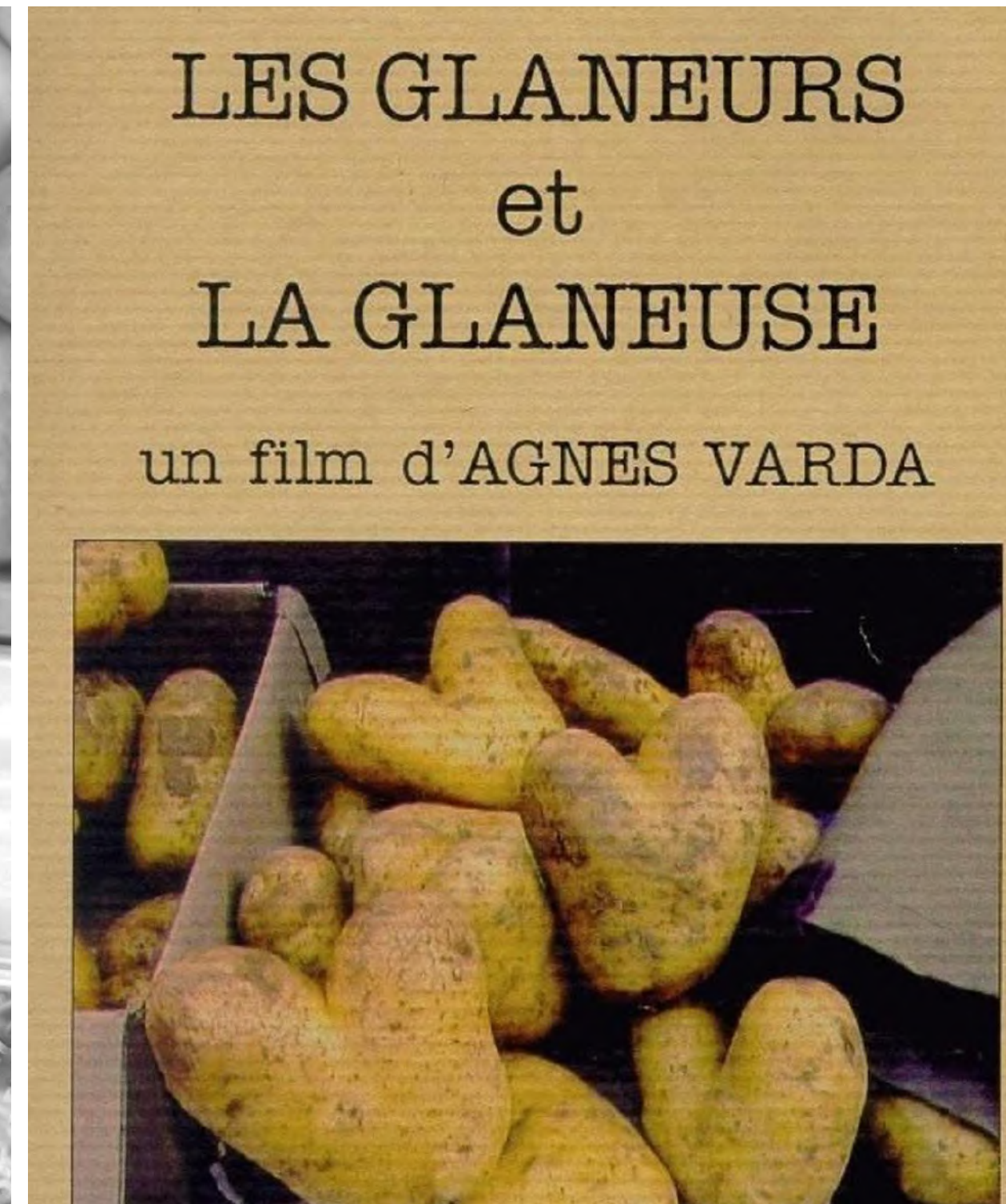
Even though this is a UK supermarket, there are still some potatoes that overlap with what I remember.



The fact

(3) The most beyond my imagination
I found heart-shaped potatoes in Waitrose!

Varda picked it up in a field and now I pick it up in the
supermarket.
I wonder if this means some change in our living
environment, for example, the standards for picking up
potatoes in supermarkets has become more forgiving.



The fact

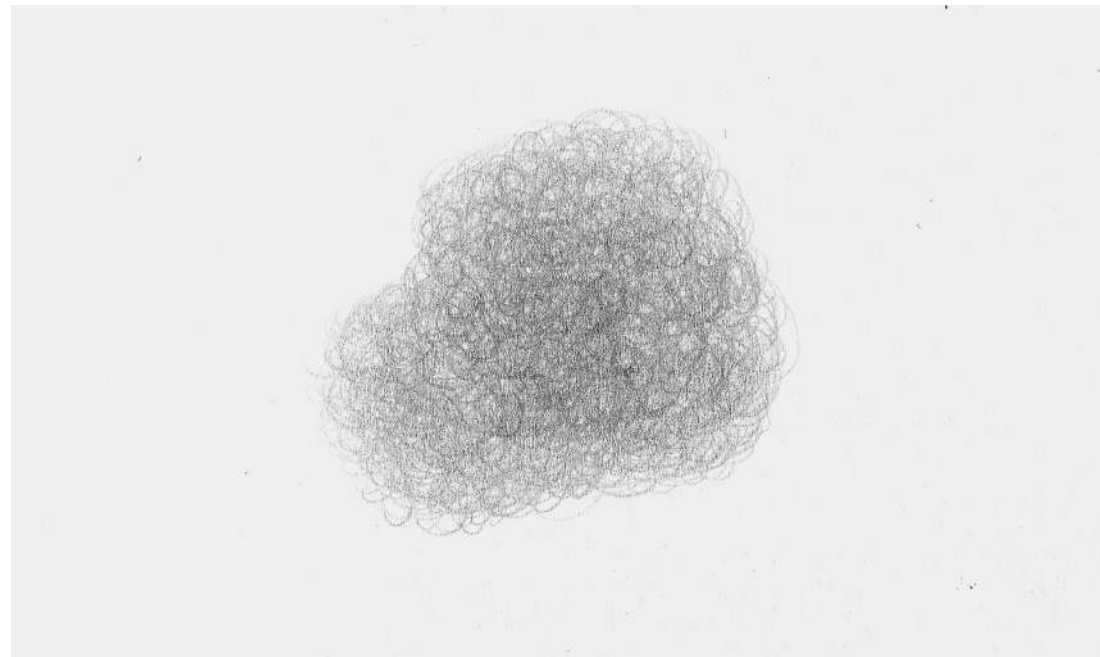
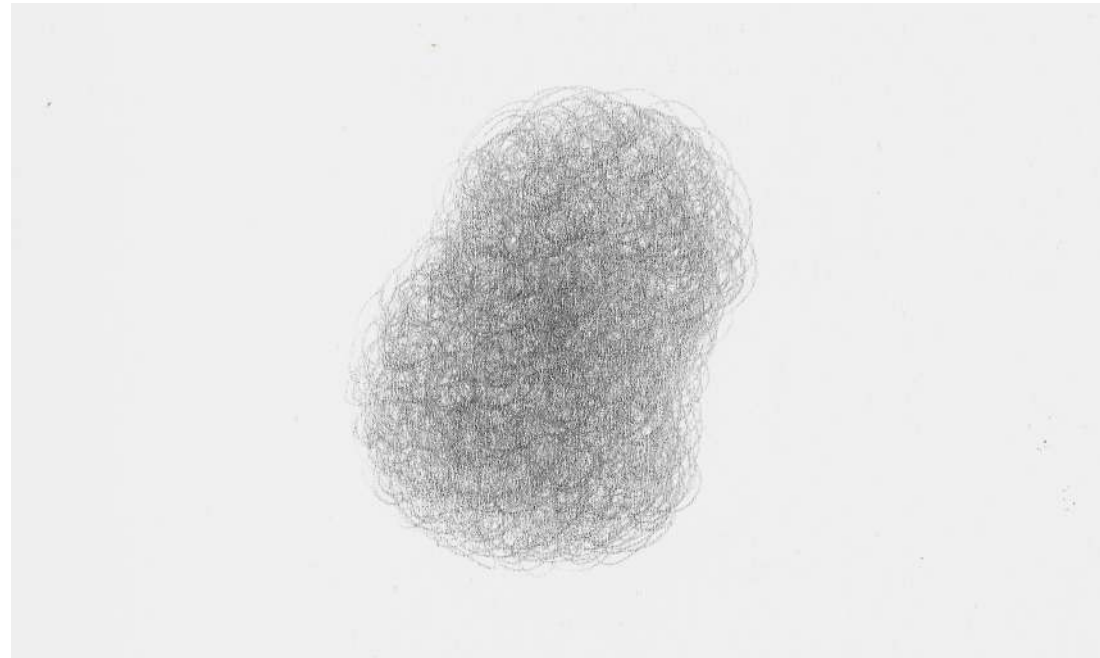
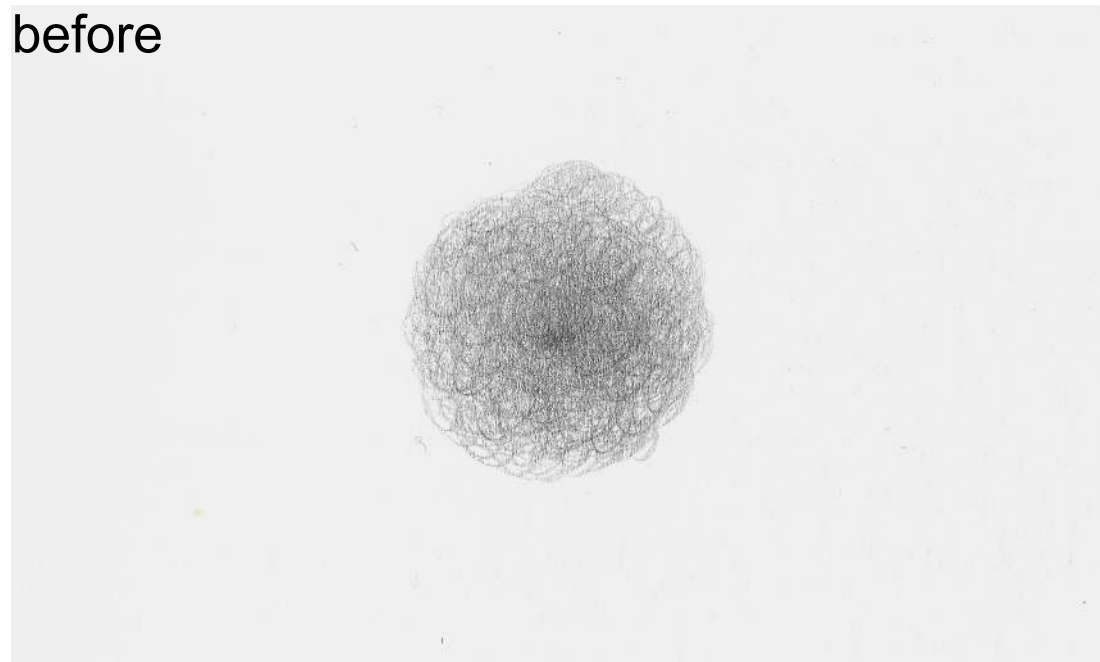
And these bruised potatoes.

I was so impressed by the scars on their skin that they now sit on the shelf alongside those round, smooth potatoes.

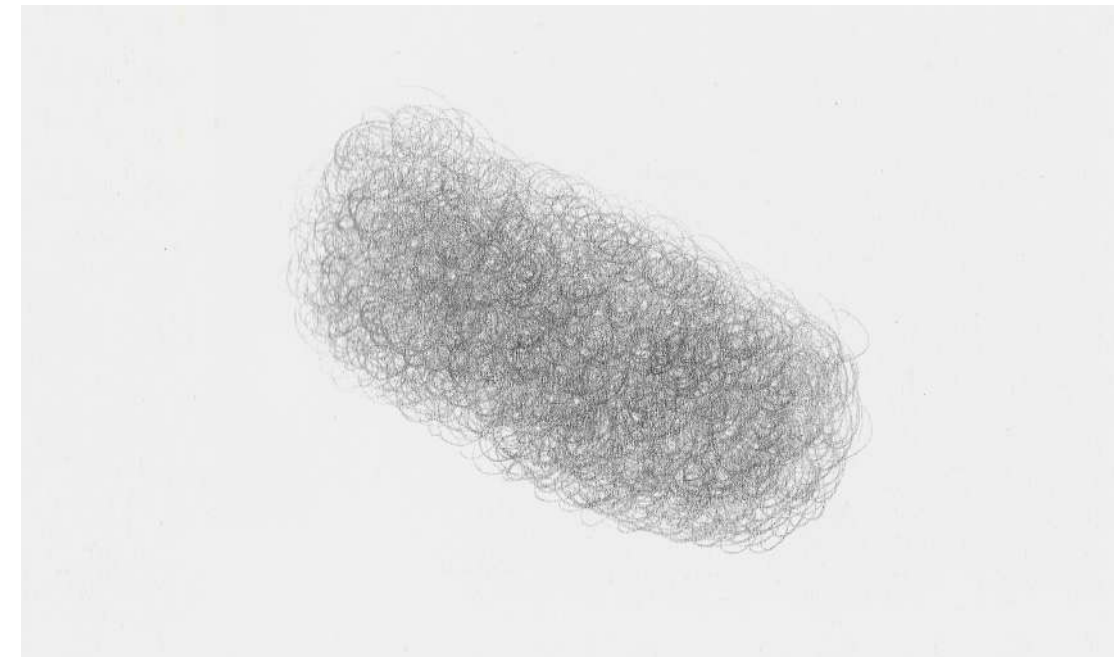
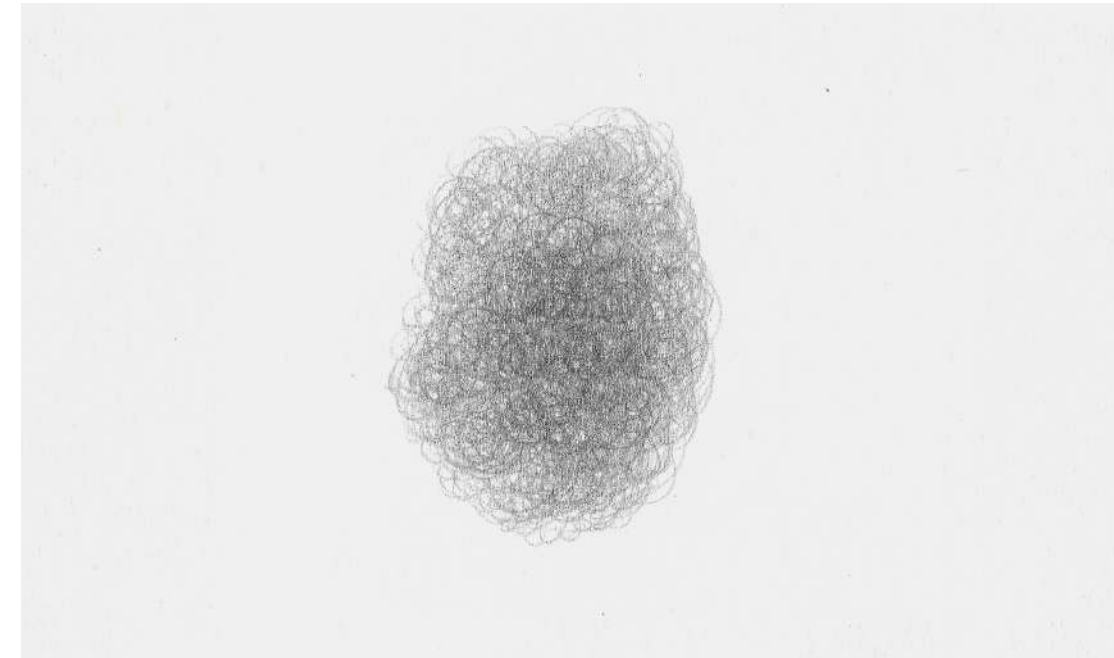
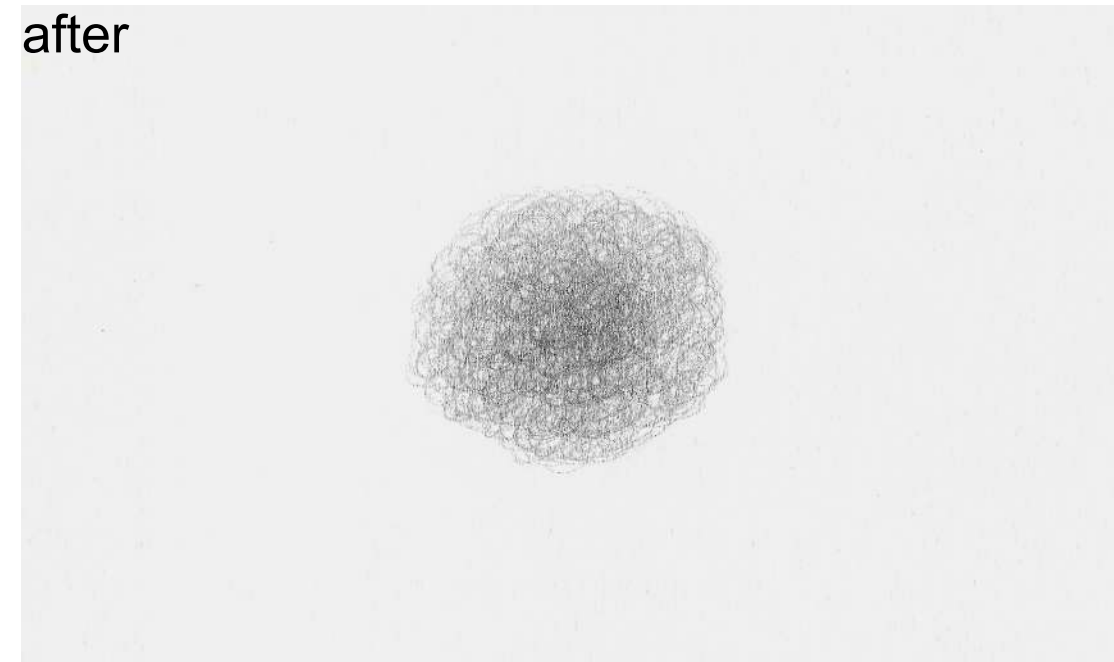


Volume

before

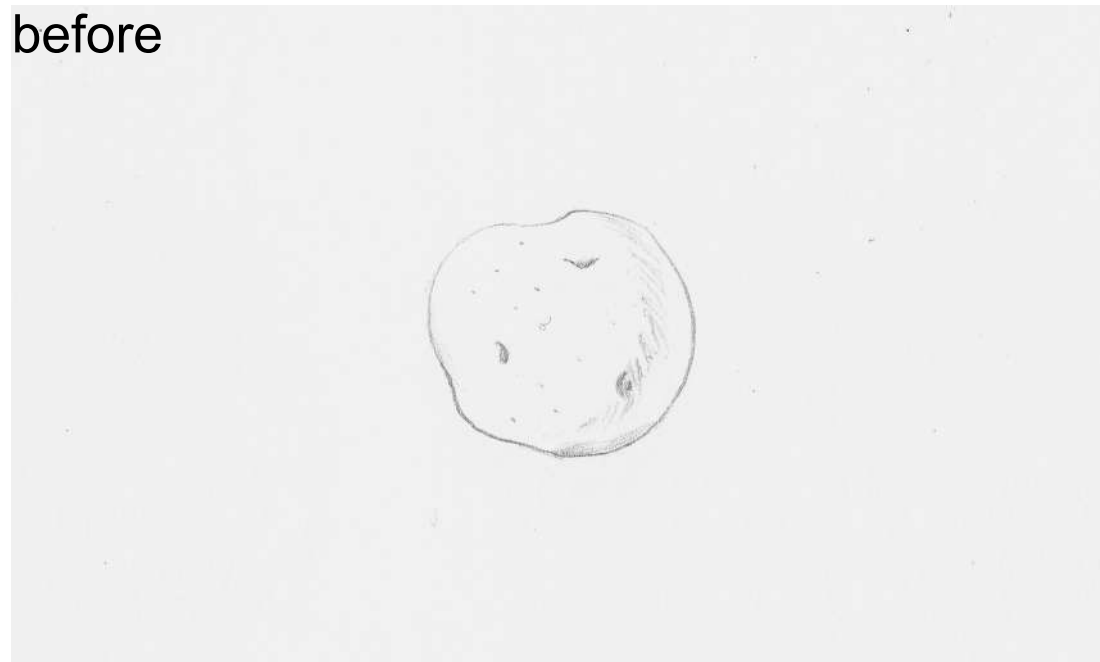


after

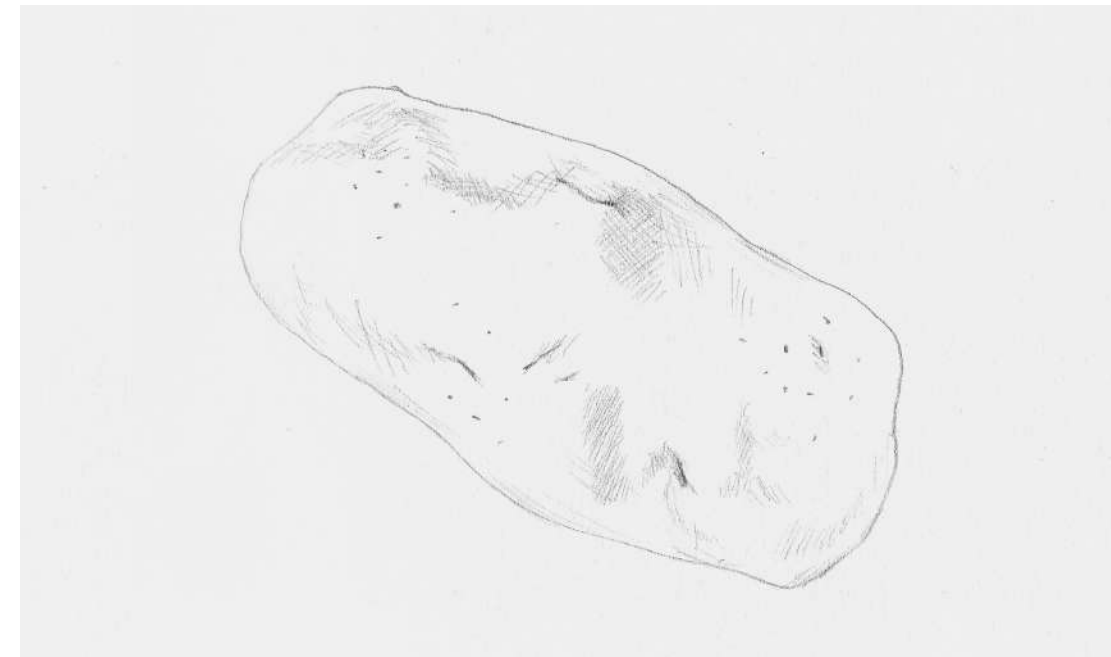
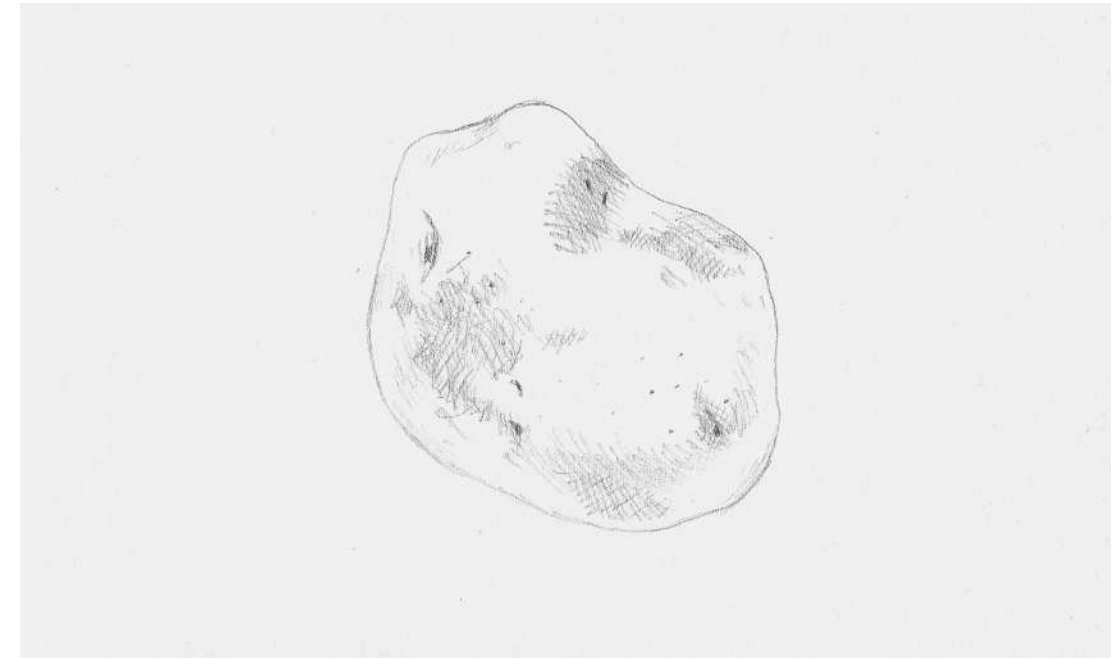
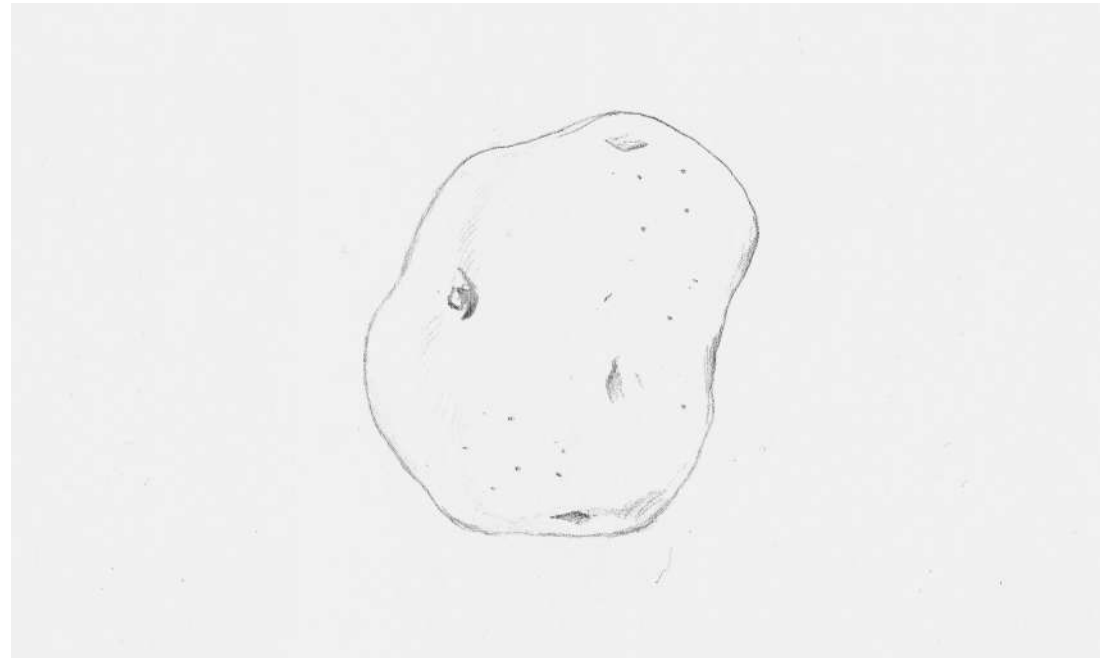
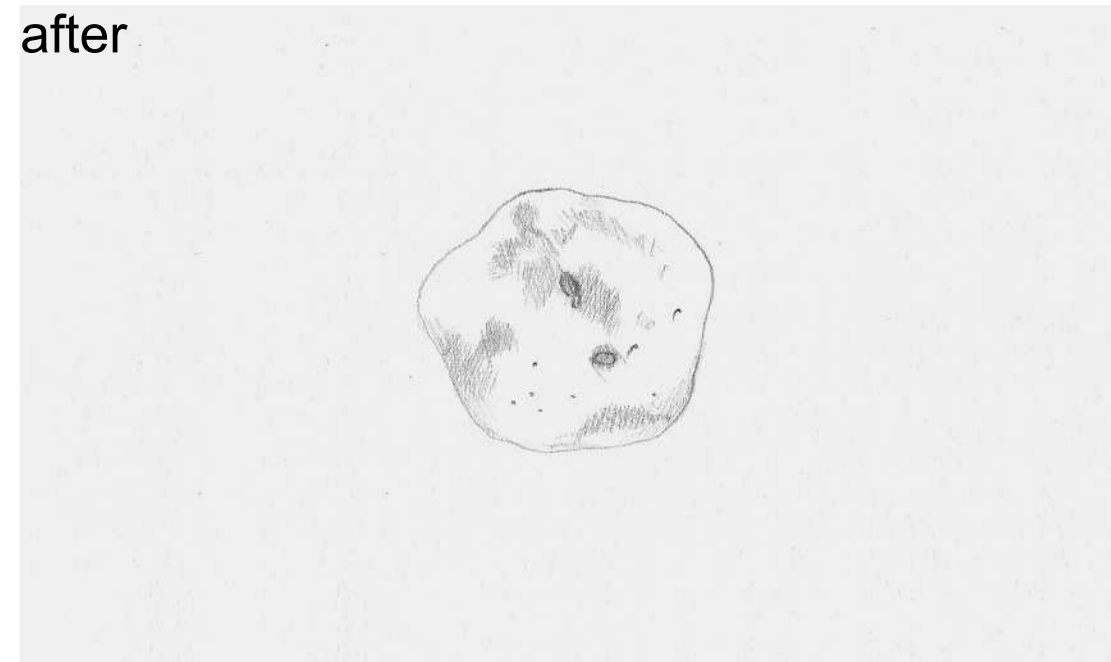


Surface

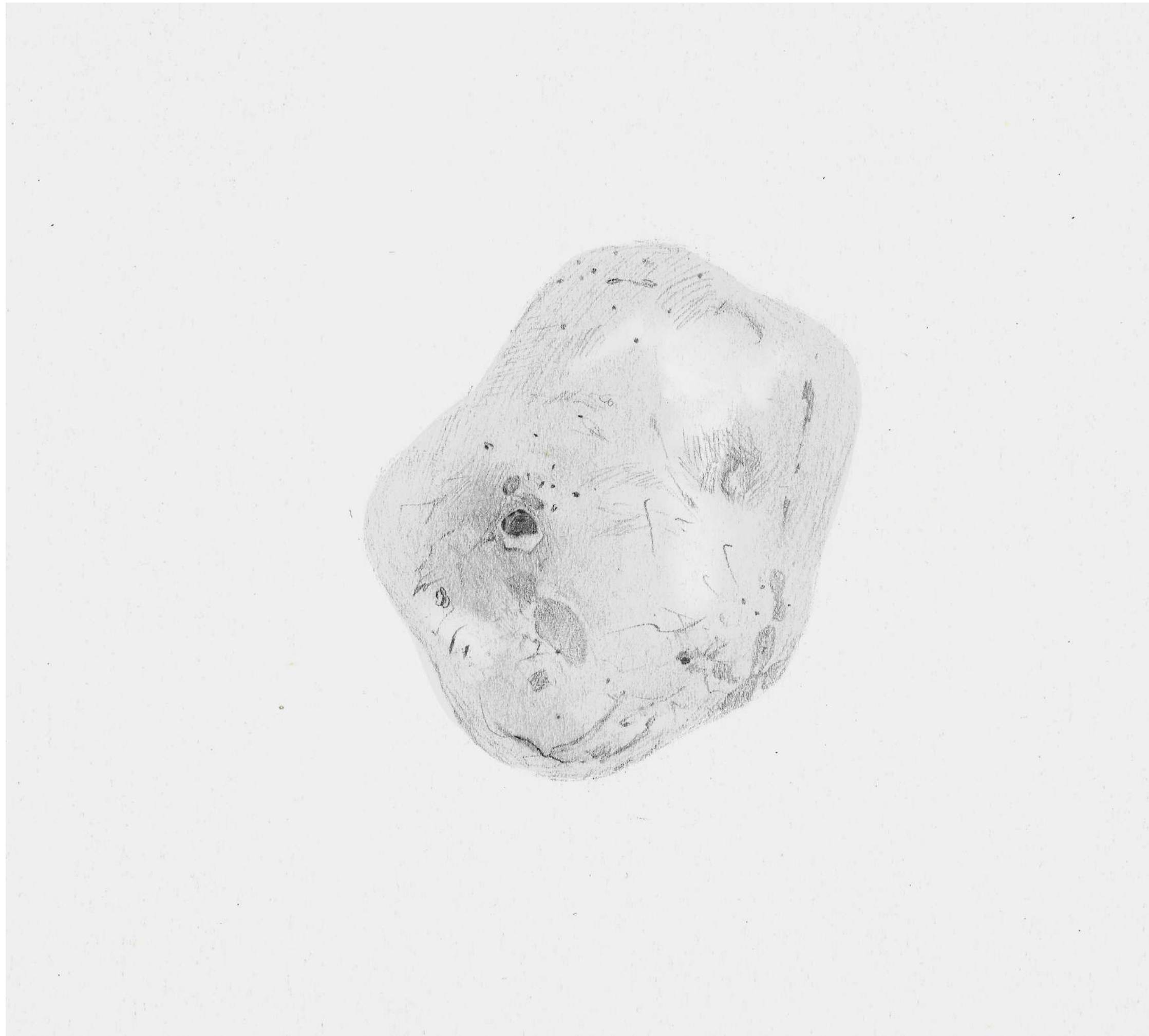
before



after



The most specific one



That's all

Maybe a supermarket with lots of
bruised potatoes is not bad