

Bill Yu Urban Sketching: Materials



Paints

- Paint palette/box
- Brush(es)
- Sketchbook, sketchpad, or block
- Water container
- Pen(s) with waterproof ink
- Plastic card (expired credit card, gift card, ID card, etc)

Paint



I suggest using tube watercolors, most of mine are from Daniel Smith, Schmincke and Winsor-Newton and are their professional grade quality. Since we will be doing limited palette work you can use as few as a single color but I would suggest no more than six (6) colors using two versions (a warm and a cool) of blue, red, and yellow.

- Pencil
- Paper towels, napkins, or a natural sponge.
- Acrylic marker in white (<https://www.dickblick.com/items/uni-posca-paint-marker-white-x-fine-tip-07-mm/>)
- Bamboo reed pen

Optional gear

- Portable chair (camp chair works well)
- Sun hat
- Umbrella
- Portable easel/pochade (tripod, shelf, and support holder)
- Rubber shaper tool (<https://www.dickblick.com/products/kemper-rubber-finishing-tool/>)
- Kakimori steel nib dip pen (\$\$)
- Fountain pen with waterproof ink
- Drafting tape (3M blue or FrogTape)
- Spray bottle with water
- Squeegee
- Wax crayon

My palette (all Daniel Smith except as noted):

- Ultramarine Blue
- Schmincke Cochenillerot Red (Alazarin Crimson)
- Hansa Yellow Medium
- Quinacridone Gold (or Yellow Ochre)
- Cobalt Teal Blue (or Pthalo blue)
- Cadmium Red Light

I keep my paints in a small tin (like an Altoids tin) which holds half-pans. I fill empty half-pans with my tube paints and let them dry before carrying them into the field. A palette should have an area to mix paint preferably on a white background. Any of the metal field palettes will work too.

You can also use a pre-filled set:

- Kuretake Gansai Tambi (<https://www.dickblick.com/products/kuretake-gansai-tambi-watercolor-paint-pan-sets/?Item=01664-1129>)
- Daniel Smith
- (<https://www.dickblick.com/products/daniel-smith-watercolor-half-pans/?Item=01683-1049>)

Brushes



I use travel brushes for urban sketching but full-sized brushes are also good if you can carry them. I suggest using a good quality synthetic watercolor brush in a size 4 or larger if you can only have one.

Or just use a waterbrush - I used this as my only brush for over a decade.

My brushes:

- Rosemary and Co. R17 Pocket Golden Synthetic Pointed Cat's Tongue - Size 4 (<https://www.rosemaryandco.com/watercolour-brushes/r17-pocket-golden-synthetic-pointed-cats-tongue>)
- Pentel water-brush - large (<https://www.dickblick.com/items/pentel-aquash-water-brush-large/>)

Also good:

- Princeton Neptune
- Princeton Heritage (1/2" one stroke flat)
- Kingart Original Gold (1/2" Wash flat)

Paper

It's best to use 100% cotton paper in a pad, block or a sketchbook but any paper that is 90lbs or higher in weight will work though this paper will not allow for multiple washes. I use both cold-press and hot-press papers. Either will work for this workshop. If you have not tried one then I suggest you try the other but use the one you prefer if you have tried both. Cold-press paper will have more tooth so paint will 'stick' more. Hot-press paper is smooth so the paint will slide more and seem to sit atop the paper.

Watercolor blocks or pads (7"x10" - 12"x16") - no bigger unless you have a portable easel:

Any of these manufacturers will work as long as the paper is 100% cotton.

- Arches
- Fabriano Artístico
- Saunders Waterford
- Legion Stonehenge Aqua Watercolor
- Winsor & Newton Professional

Watercolor sketchbooks - (at least 4"x6")

- Etchr Studio sketchbook - landscape or square (<https://etchrlab.com/collections/sketchbooks>)
- Hand Book Paper Co. Travelogue Watercolor Journals - 5x25" x 8.25" or square
- BAOHONG - Watercolor Sketchbook, 100% Cotton, 24 Sheets, 140lbs / 300gsm, 9.4" x 6.37" / 24 x 16cm, Hot Pressed, white

Portable easel/tripod:

I use:

- Lightweight tripod with an Arcus ball head.
- Panel holder from Prolific painter
- Tripod flat shelf from Cup Easels