

STUDIO NUMBER NINE

Art supplies & resources

A non-exhaustive list to get you started on your trip to the art supply store.

My Tools & Resources

This is by no means an exhaustive list of everything I use, but it's the primary stuff. At any given moment I'll have all of these supplies wherever I am.

As usual, I recommend you visit your local art store for all of these supplies, but I've provided Amazon links to everything.



Art Supplies



Chinco .035 mm Pens

Hands down my favorite pens. For a long time I couldn't remember what they were because everything on the pen is in Japanese, and I had to go back to my purchase history to re-order them. I give these away to people willingly, because I love them. Sharp, crisp, very thin detail lines, and waterproof ink. [Buy here](#)

Van Gogh Watercolors

This is my current set. 24 colors. I've replaced each of the pans at least twice now. For me, the quality makes a big difference. How so? You gotta look really close sometimes. Some watercolors leave a bit of texture that I don't like. A grainy texture. Some are even smoother than van Gogh's!

[Buy here](#)



Arches Paper

There are two kinds of watercolor paper (more or less). Hot pressed & cold pressed. The best thing you can do is try both. Cold pressed has a rougher texture, and hot pressed is super smooth. What does that mean? You're going to get smooth, crisp lines on hot pressed paper, and a bit more of a texture on cold pressed. Your best bet is to try them both and see how you like them. It may seem pricey, but it makes a big difference.

This is the smoother, less textured kind of watercolor paper. It'll give you crisper edges. I prefer this kind. I think? I go back & forth some times. There are things I like about both.

[Buy Cold Pressed Paper](#)

[Buy Hot Pressed Paper](#)



Sailor Fude De Mannen Fountain Pen

These fountain pens are fantastic. So many different line widths & weights available with the flick of a wrist. While the Chinco pens have a wonderfully dense & consistent line, their line is only one weight. This is what I use for a bit more depth. Pro tip - get the waterproof ink.

[Get this pen](#)



Waterproof ink for fountain pen

The Sailor Fude De Mannen pen comes with its own ink, but that ink is water soluble. Maybe you want that. But I don't want my ink bleeding.

Usually. This stuff has a tendency to evaporate, but it works!

[Get this ink](#)

Art Supplies



Brushes

Honesty, I don't have a strong preference for brushes. Next time I go to the art store maybe I'll take note. They definitely make a difference, but I haven't been pulled to any one brand just yet. What's essential is the variety of brush sizes. A flat edged brush, a medium round one, a fine detail one, and one between that fine & medium one. This small set will get you what you need: [Get brushes](#)



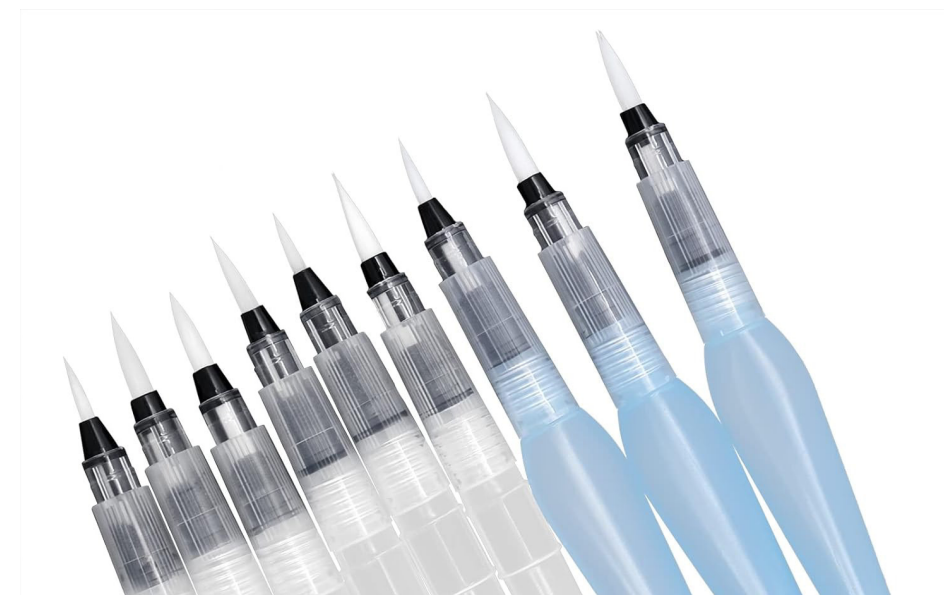
Watercolor Journals

I've got a stack of these. The Talens Art creation books are wonderful (the black & yellow ones). Their paper is thin, but very resilient. I've collaged on it, painted acrylic on it, tons of watercolors.

The Tumuarta journal is even better. 300gsm cold press paper. (Like the cold pressed Arches from the last page.)

[Buy Talens](#)

[Buy Tumurarta](#)



Waterbrush half full of ink

These are great. You can fill them with water and use them with a small watercolor kit on the go. What I always have on me is one brush with a diluted black (water soluble) ink - for a mid grey tone. It'll take your sketches to the next level.

[Water brushes](#)

[Higgins Ink](#)

[Kneaded Eraser](#)

[Staedtler Pencils](#)

Other assets

Stock Photography

Stock photography is how I get references for everything I do. These two sites are royalty free. However, do your due diligence if you're repurposing photos for anything, just to protect yourself from any copyright infringement. It's a tricky, grey situation (and possibly worth a deeper dive on my end).

[Pexels.com](https://www.pexels.com)

[Pixabay.com](https://pixabay.com)

[Unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com)

Editing Videos

There are a million ways to skin this cat and again, it's a topic for another time, but here is my basic process:

1. Shoot on phone
2. Edit with [Capcut on Desktop](#) (There is a phone version as well)
3. Add music in Instagram or TikTok

The Artist's Way

This book changed my life. My therapist recommended it one day, and I immediately bought a copy.

[Get yourself a copy](#)

Other things to google

[Inktober](#) - draw a different spooky thing every day in October

[Shinysquirrelsummit.com](#) - get on a waiting list for this for the next time it happens. An astounding amount of valuable information was shared.

[Urbansketchers.org](#) - find your local organization and go out drawing.

About me

Dating back to December 2022, Ken Stanek has doodled detailed diaries of diners, dives, shops, cafes, and places. Swollen sketchbooks swiftly spilled off shelves, displacing space and ballooning backpacks. A sketchbook goes everywhere he goes.

Ken has been a full time artist since the spring of 2023 and has been drawing all his life. Watercolor became his medium after finding that his light touch translates terrifically in capturing portraits of the personas of people, pets, homes, animals, and small businesses. His artwork has appeared at the Paper Mill Playhouse and can be found in numerous small businesses that he has illustrated around town.

He is a board member of the [Studio Tour SOMA](#), an organizer of [SOMA Figure Drawing](#), and a member of the [Springfield Avenue Partnership](#) board.

Find him on Instagram at [@studionumbernine](#)



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[Pexels.com](https://www.pexels.com)

[Pixabay.com](https://pixabay.com)

Capcut

Instagram for artists (don't just steal from Josie Lewis though)

Posts

Stories

Reels

Live

Instagram Accounts to follow

because they're local and important

warrencourtartwalk

studiotoursoma

jnunezgallery

somafiguredrawing

maryshadbolt

ohcanary

southorangedowntown

Accounts I love to follow

Painted Wing

Maltry Creative

Urbansketchers

Paul H Easton

The Artist's Way

Shiny Squirrel Art Summit

A swatch sheet of your watercolors

Editing Videos

1. Shoot on phone

2. Edit with Capcut on Desktop (there's a whole process in getting your footage into capcut, but that's beyond the scope of this document)

3. Add music in Instagram or TikTok