



Ted Watts, in his studio

## Ted Watts, Famed Oswego, KS Sports Artist, To Speak at Annual Gene DeGruson Memorial Lecture

Mr. Ted Watts, renowned sports artist, will speak at the Fifth Annual Gene DeGruson Memorial Lecture on October 10, 2002, at 7 PM in the Special Collections area of Axe Library on the campus of Pittsburg State University. Mr. Watts will talk about his career as an artist and his association with the late Gene DeGruson. A number of works by Mr. Watts will be on exhibition. A reception and refreshments will follow the lecture with piano music by Peter Zhmutski, a Pittsburg State University student.

Ted Watts was born in Anthony, Kansas, in 1942. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Pittsburg State University in 1966. He was awarded the Meritorious Achievement Award from Pittsburg State University in 1988 and was elected to the University's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1999. In 1972 Watts opened his own art studio in Oswego, Kansas, specializing in sports illustrations for college and university athletics. His works have included commissions from the United States Olympic Committee, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and colleges and universities from across the United States. His works are on permanent exhibit in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, the Professional Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, and the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Indiana. Recent works include an art series of past Heisman Trophy winners unveiled in August 1996 at the College Football Hall of Fame and a thirty-three foot mural commemorating University of Oklahoma football completed in 1998.

In 1980 Ted Watts joined Gene DeGruson and Shelby Horn as a founding editor of The Little Balkans Review, a Southeast Kansas literary and graphics quarterly. In addition to serving as Art and Graphics Editor, Watts drew most of the cover art during the Review's five-year existence.

Ted and his wife, Faye, live in Oswego. They have two sons, Thom and Brad, and a granddaughter, Lily.

The Gene DeGruson Memorial Lecture is sponsored by the Friends of the Leonard H. Axe Library and is open to the general public.



Self portrait as a student at PSU, circa 1964.