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## 01/21/1986 - Director Of Tarble Arts Center

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
Charleston, Illinois

# news

January 21, 1986

Local

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Michael Watts, 34, has been selected as the Director of the Tarble Arts Center at Eastern Illinois University, effective February 15, Dr. Vaughn Jaenike, dean of the College of Fine Arts announced Tuesday (Jan. 21).

Watts will replace Robert Evans, who resigned last summer. Janet Messenger, who has been in charge since Evans' departure, will remain as the Acting Curator for the TAC.

Since 1983 Watts has been the director of the Clara M. Eagle & Curris Center Galleries at Murray State (KY) University. Prior to that he was the director of the Paducah Art Guild from 1979-83 and the director of the Butte/Silver Bow Arts Foundation & Arts Chateau in Butte, MT from 1977-79.

"The Tarble Arts Center was planned, designed and funded on the premise that it would serve two major constituencies, the campus and the greater community," said Jaenike.

"The director of the Tarble Center should have experience in, and a desire for, functioning successfully with the somewhat diverse tasks of operating within an academic structure to take the arts to the people...all the people. I believe Michael Watts has both the experience and the desire to succeed as director."

Watts received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Western Illinois University in 1975 and a Masters of Fine Arts from the University of Texas in 1977.

He was a regional representative on the Board of Directors for the Kentucky Citizens of the Arts (1982-83), active with the Southern Arts Federation (1981-82), and has served as a consultant/panelist on a dozen arts councils and symposiums while employed at Paducah and Murray State the past six years.

TAC Director

add 1

As an undergraduate at WIU, he was an assistant to the director of the Brown Hall Gallery (1974-75).

Watts is a member of the American Association for State and Local History, American Association of Museums and College Art Association.