

## **BECKMAN'S HANDCRAFTED SHOW<sup>®</sup> ANNOUNCES CALL FOR ARTISTS**

### **FOR JANUARY 2009 MARKET**

CHICAGO, IL (September 17, 2008) – Beckman's Handcrafted Show<sup>®</sup>, an exclusive component of The Chicago Market: Living and Giving<sup>™</sup>, running January 15-21, 2009, announces a call for artists to exhibit.

Beckman's, held January 17-20, is a "Meet the Artist" show, encompassing everything including mixed media, functional art, home décor, fiber, fine jewelry, gourmet and traditional rustic craft. Retailers will truly see a little bit of everything—and much of it has never been seen before. Beckman's will continue to feature a high-end exhibitor base built through an application process to guarantee the most valuable attendee experience.

Exhibitor participation criteria includes: artists must be the maker, designer, creator and producer of their work, using little or no prefabricated materials; work must be original; there is no use of commercial kits or molds; and finally, artist's presence is required.

"Beckman's offers retailers the opportunity to discover one-of-a-kind resources, which can help to set their store apart from the competition," said Lindsay Pearson, director of sales for Beckman's Handcrafted Show. "Handmade favorites, cutting-edge design and everything in between rounds out a broad exhibitor base, giving buyers a wide selection of artisan works."

Buyers from lifestyle-retail shops, galleries, furniture stores, museum gift shops and specialty boutiques, to name a few, attend The Chicago Market: Living and Giving, all seeking unique, distinctive product to excite their customers. Retail categories span hundreds of showrooms and exhibitors across all major categories.

Giving buyers more product, more special events and more educational programming, Beckman's Handcrafted Show, along with The Chicago Market, will offer more than ever this January. With an expanding exhibitor base, buyers will find the friendly environment of The Merchandise Mart not only productive, but also inspiring—driving consumers to their stores for the season's most unique, one-of-a-kind product.

The deadline for directory inclusion is November 4, 2008. Artists who are new to Beckman's will receive \$750 in marketing credit to complete their comprehensive package offered. For more information on participating as an exhibitor, please call Lindsay Pearson, director of sales, at 312.527.7929 or e-mail [lpearson@beckmans.com](mailto:lpearson@beckmans.com).

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**Merchandise Mart Properties, Inc. (MMPI)** is a trade show and property management firm, specializing in managing buildings devoted to wholesale showrooms and commercial office space. MMPI produces more than 300 trade shows, market events and conferences each year.

MMPI manages The Merchandise Mart and 350 West Mart Center in Chicago; Market Square, the Suites at Market Square, Hamilton Market, Plaza Suites, Furniture Plaza and the National Furniture Mart in High Point, N.C.; the Architects & Designers Building and 7 W New York in New York; the Boston Design Center in Boston; the L.A. Mart in Los Angeles; and the Washington Design Center and Federal Center Southwest in Washington D.C.

**Vornado Realty Trust**, owners of MMPI, based in New York City, is a fully integrated equity real estate investment trust. Vornado's common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange and are traded under the symbol VNO.

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