

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **MMPI OFFERS DISTINCT ARTISAN HANDMADE PRODUCTS WITH ITS BECKMAN'S™ HANDCRAFTED SHOW IN LOS ANGELES AND CHICAGO Each market will showcase more than 150 artists this January**

**CHICAGO (December 21, 2010)** – MMPI leads the way in providing the best in artisanal products, with thriving Beckman's™ Handcrafted Shows in Los Angeles and Chicago. Each show offers buyers and retailers a great mix of handcrafted products that reflect regional and national trends and tastes.

Consumers are demanding handmade products and Beckman's™ West and Beckman's™ Chicago provides the resources to answer that need. As the industry leader in handmade goods, California Gift Show and Chicago Market attendees will find the artisanal, one-of-a-kind products that they are looking this January. At both markets, attendees can shop over 150 carefully vetted artisans that offer products with a personal story. Each show offers a mix of new and returning artisans that thoughtfully balances product categories, specialties and new resources. Attendees of both shows will see an exceptional selection of handmade contemporary and traditional apparel, jewelry and classic home accents.

“Retailers need to set themselves apart from the competition and an easy way to do that is to feature handmade, artisanal products,” said Joan Ulrich, senior vice president, MMPI. “Beckman's gives L.A. and Chicago attendee's access to the best in unique and handmade products. Both shows will showcase over 25% new-to-market exhibitors, which means buyers and retailers can choose from the freshest resources possible.”

Designed as a “show within a show”, the Beckman's™ Handcrafted Show is the most highly recognized handmade wholesale trade event in the gift industry. For over 30 years, Beckman's™ Handcrafted Show has showcased the best in original work to discerning specialty retailers looking to differentiate themselves from their competition. Beckman's reflects trends in the marketplace through the original work of true artisans not seen elsewhere, increasing the overall value of the market, by showcasing unique handcrafted work within the framework of a vibrant gift show.

Beckman's™ West and Beckman's™ Chicago are excited to welcome new and returning artisans to the January 2011 Markets. Please see below for exhibitor highlights and links to a complete listing of Beckman's™ Handcrafted Show exhibitors.

**Beckman's™ West exhibitor highlights include:**

**Jenny & Jimbob, booth 2-205, [www.jennyandjimbob.com](http://www.jennyandjimbob.com)**

Jenny and Jimbob are local California designers and returning Beckman's West exhibitors that offer fun and smart jewelry. Jenny & Jimbob offer a creative matchbox line that consists of ordinary and unusual objects that are affordable and unique.

**Betsey Carter Ceramics, booth 2-513, [www.betseycarter.com](http://www.betseycarter.com)**

Betsey Carter is a fine artist / ceramists from South Carolina. Carter's work is primarily in porcelain and is functional as well as decorative. In her work, Carter explores and exploits the strength, fluidity, and whiteness of the porcelain, striving for clean lines and simplicity of form. Her work expresses a contemporary ethos in a traditional art form.

**Handmade Galleries, booth 2-503, [www.handmadegalleriesla.com](http://www.handmadegalleriesla.com)**

Handmade Galleries is a landmark LA mega-boutique and features the work of local and nationally known artists as well as other creative, fresh and unusual finds. This January the Handmade Galleries booth will be highlighting 10 curated artists who are also featured at its retail store.

Please visit <http://www.californiagiftshow.com/directory-search/temporaries/> for a current Beckman's™ West exhibitor list.

**Beckman's™ Chicago exhibitor highlights include:**

**RL Photography, 8-7066, [www.rebeccaplotnick.com](http://www.rebeccaplotnick.com)**

RL Photography offers beautiful and unconventional photographs from the own artist's travels around the world. The images are available in various sizes to hang individually or in groupings. RL Photography offers an excellent opportunity to add a touch of culture to any space.

**Vintage at Heart, 8-6046, [www.vintageatheart.net](http://www.vintageatheart.net)**

Vintage at Heart offers home décor made from retired wine barrels. These recycled eco-friendly pieces are perfect for the wine connoisseur, antique lover, country home, or cottage.

**Francis Metal Works, 8-7049, [www.francismetals.com](http://www.francismetals.com)**

Francis Metal Works produces products inspired by the world's greatest water bird sanctuaries and selects the finest fieldstones and adds a unique iron work to create one of kind sculptures.

Please visit <http://www.shopchicagomarket.com/exhibitorlisting/BeckmansHandcrafted/> for a current Beckman's™ Chicago exhibitor list.

**CALIFORNIA GIFT SHOW HOURS:**

**L.A. Mart**

**Tuesday, January 18 – Monday, January 24**

Showrooms: 9a.m. – 6p.m.

**Friday, January 21 – Monday, January 24**

Temporaries and Beckman's™ West: 9a.m. – 6p.m.

**Friday, January 21 – SHOP LATE NIGHT!**

Showrooms: 9a.m. – 8p.m., Temporaries and Beckman's™ West: 9a.m. – 8p.m.

**LOS ANGELES CONVENTION CENTER**

**Friday, January 21-Sunday, January 23**

Temporaries: 9a.m.-6p.m.

**Monday, January 24**

Temporaries: 9a.m. – 4p.m.

**LOCATION:**

LOS ANGELES CONVENTION CENTER  
1201 South Figueroa St. Los Angeles, CA 90015  
South and Kentia Halls

L.A. MART  
1933 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90007

For more information on The California Gift Show, please visit [www.californiagiftshow.com](http://www.californiagiftshow.com).

**CHICAGO MARKET: LIVING AND GIVING SHOW HOURS**

**Thursday, January 20 – Tuesday, January 25**

Showrooms: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. | Floors 13, 14, 15

**Saturday, January 22 – Tuesday, January 25**

Temporaries and Beckman's™ Handcrafted Show: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. | Floor 8

**Saturday, January 22 and Sunday, January 23 – SHOP LATE NIGHT!**

Showrooms: 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. | Floors 13, 14, 15

Temporaries and Beckman's™ Handcrafted Show: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. | Floor 8

**Wednesday, January 26**

Showrooms: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Floors 13, 14, 15

For more information on The Chicago Market: Living and Giving, please visit [www.shopchicagomarket.com](http://www.shopchicagomarket.com) or call 800.677.6278 (MART).

**L.A. Mart®** is a registered trademark of MMPI. **The California Gift Show®** is a registered trademark of MMPI. **Beckman's Handcrafted Gift Show** is a registered trademark of MMPI. L.A. Mart is home to nearly 200 permanent year-round, residential, decorative accessory and gift showrooms serving the retail and interior design industries. The California Gift Show Temporaries feature over 800 temporary exhibitors of lifestyle merchandise, home décor and furnishings, in the newly enhanced and expanded Temporaries at L.A. Mart and Los Angeles Convention Center making the California Gift Show the preeminent market for gift and home furnishings products on the West Coast. L.A. Mart is located at 1933 South Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90007. For more information call 213-763-5800 or visit [www.californiagiftshow.com](http://www.californiagiftshow.com) or [www.lamart.com](http://www.lamart.com).

**The Chicago Market: Living and Giving** is a trademark of MMPI. **Beckman's** is a registered trademark of MMPI. The Chicago Market: Living and Giving is a quarterly wholesale tradeshow designed for store owners, retail buyers and designers to shop a wide array of quality products ranging from home accents and furniture to handcrafted or eco-friendly product to collectible items, holiday, baby/children's product, gourmet and more. The Chicago Merchandise Mart is located at 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Chicago, IL 60654. For more information call 800.677.6278 (MART) or visit [www.shopchicagomarket.com](http://www.shopchicagomarket.com).

**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 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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