



*November 3rd, 2009*

## **The Chicago Market: Living and Giving Offers Innovative and Distinct Products with the Beckman's Handcrafted Show**

Chicago, IL – This January, The Chicago Market: Living and Giving® is excited to offer an expanded Beckman's™ Handcrafted Show, with new to market exhibitors as well as popular high profile returning exhibitors.

Designed as a “show within a show, 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.

The Beckman's Handcrafted Show encompasses fresh and functional pieces from contemporary apparel to jewelry to classic home accents making it a trusted resource among specialty retailers for innovative and unique product opportunities.

“The Chicago Market leads the way with handcrafted products as Beckman's showcases the best in original handmade pieces that are distinct and unique,” said Joan Ulrich, senior vice president, MMPI. “We are so excited to welcome a significant number of new artists and a host of favorites returning to this year's Market. Plus, we have added a Fair Trade pavilion adjacent to Beckman's offering more handcrafted products in a variety of product categories to meet the growing demand for unique high quality products.”

The Chicago Market is excited to welcome 30% more new Beckman's exhibitors and the list is growing daily. Highlights include:

Donna Saures, [www.donnasauersdesigns.com](http://www.donnasauersdesigns.com)

Sugar Notes, [www.sugarnotescards.com](http://www.sugarnotescards.com)

Lisa's Photo Quilting, [www.lisasphotoquilting.com](http://www.lisasphotoquilting.com)

Artists of Africa, <http://artistsofafrica.typepad.com>

Soap Alchemy, [www.soapalchemy.com](http://www.soapalchemy.com)

Elvie Zell, [www.elviezellenamels.com](http://www.elviezellenamels.com)

Prospect Harbor Soap, [www.prospectharborsoapco.com](http://www.prospectharborsoapco.com)

Blue Eagle Pottery, [www.blueeaglepottery.com](http://www.blueeaglepottery.com)

Montgomery Raku & Artworks, [www.montgomeryraku.com](http://www.montgomeryraku.com)

Wendy Wise Originals, [www.wendywiseoriginals.com](http://www.wendywiseoriginals.com)

HeartFelt Traditions, [www.heartfeltraditions.com](http://www.heartfeltraditions.com)

Stylish Girl by Laila, [www.stylishgirl.com](http://www.stylishgirl.com)

Inspirational Design and Décor

Oakland Pottery, [www.oaklandnursery.com](http://www.oaklandnursery.com)

Beckett Pottery, [www.beckettpottery.com](http://www.beckettpottery.com)

Beckman's Handcrafted Show also provides artisans with the ability to build their brand and their wholesale business by targeting the right buyers and retailers with new and returning exhibitors; featuring established brands and new product innovations. For more information on Beckman's please contact Robin Gadowski at 312.527.3063 or via email at [rgadowski@mmart.com](mailto:rgadowski@mmart.com).

The Chicago Market's Fair Trade section is also expanding the number of exhibitors under the Fair Trade Federation (FTF) banner. Positioned adjacent to the Beckman's Handcrafted Show, the Fair Trade exhibitors offer additional choices in handcrafted products in many categories. The FTF logo represents a national trade association whose goal is to strengthen and promote North American Organizations who are fully committed to Fair Trade partnerships. The Federation is a part of the global Fair Trade movement, building equitable and sustainable trading partnerships and creating opportunities to alleviate poverty. As Fair Trade products continue to draw buyers and retailers in the Midwest and across the USA; the FTF logo helps to identify Fair Trade exhibitors so buyers and retailers can be assured that these brands are certified Fair Trade products. These unique high quality products deliver on price points, variety and quality craftsmanship.

#### Chicago Market Dates

January 2010, The Chicago Market: Living and Giving

Chicago Showrooms: Thursday, January 21 – Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Temporaries and Beckman's™ Handcrafted Show: Saturday, January 23 – Tuesday, January 26

For an up-to-date line listing for Beckman's™ Handcrafted Show, visit [www.beckmans.com](http://www.beckmans.com). For a comprehensive look at all The Chicago Market is offering this January, go to [shopchicagomarket.com](http://shopchicagomarket.com) or call 800.677.6278 (MART).