

**CHICAGO
NOW**



"Black Friday - Don't Do It!"

11.25.09

Black Friday. While I assumed the day after Thanksgiving was called that because it puts retailers in the black, it was actually given that name back in the mid-60's by the Philadelphia police because of the massive traffic jams and the phalanx-like crowds that darkened the sidewalks. That's a definition that seems a bit more along the lines of my personal feelings. I don't like shopping in the first place; add a few thousand people ravenous for a good deal and that's pretty much my idea of scraping nails on a chalkboard then having them pulled out. Not a fan.

So when I saw the subject line "Black Friday - Don't Do It!" in my inbox, I had to open the email. It happened to be from the [One Of A Kind Show](#), an annual fair at the Merchandise Mart that offers singular items created by artists and craftspeople. As the daughter of an artist, that's some shopping I can actually get into.

The show is next week, from December 3 - 6. So go ahead - stay in this weekend. Avoid the madness and get your loved ones gifts that no one else will have and that don't require a sacrifice of your sanity. As a bonus, go on opening day and you'll also be helping out Children's Memorial Hospital.

What: One Of A Kind Show
When: Dec 3 - 6
Where: Merchandise Mart
How much: \$12

