

## Inspiration found over and over by local artist

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A wonderland of rare and unusual works of art await holiday shoppers visiting the One of a Kind Show and Sale Chicago this weekend at the Merchandise Mart.

Vendors from across the country as well as Canada have gathered to display hand-crafted, one-of-a kind pieces. Works include jewelry, decorative art and ornaments.

Local artist Dolan Geiman of Geiman Studios ([dolangeiman.com](http://dolangeiman.com)) is offering folksy, eco-friendly mixed-media pieces made from recycled materials and found objects.

Geiman, who lives and works in Bridgeport, grew up on a farm in Virginia, where he discovered the beauty of turning found objects into treasures.

"An artist is a vehicle for creativity," Geiman said. "The idea of the transformation of normal materials into works of art is elevating."

Geiman, the son of an artist and teacher, discovered his zest for creating at a young age. His mother, the artist, made games out of scavenger hunts when he was young, and the desire to uncover secret treasures has stuck with him.

"I have always been curious," Geiman said. "I loved the idea of finding secret, hidden things and turning them into treasures."

Inspired by his farm roots, Geiman incorporates elements of nature in most of his pieces. One of his more popular motifs is birds.

"Birds are fascinating; they have their own little world going on," he said.

Among Geiman's works on display at the show will be "Lovebird Rescued Wood Construction" (\$350). The piece contains elements of salvaged wood, an old license plate and tactically designed elements.

"The thought behind the creation was to take a typically given gift, such as the heart-shaped box of candy, and make it more permanent," Geiman said.

Geiman, located in booth 5053 at the show, has 50 to 100 pieces for sale, ranging in price from \$32-\$3,500.

"I know this sounds cliched, but I want my works to inspire people, to encourage them to do things a little differently," Geiman said. "And, above all, inspire them to be happy."

The Merchandise Mart is at the Chicago River between Orleans and Wells streets in downtown Chicago. Hours for the One of a Kind Show and Sale are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. today, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$12 for a weekend pass, \$9 for students and seniors. Children age 12 and under get in free. For more information, visit [oneofakindshowchicago.com](http://oneofakindshowchicago.com).