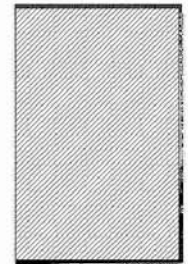


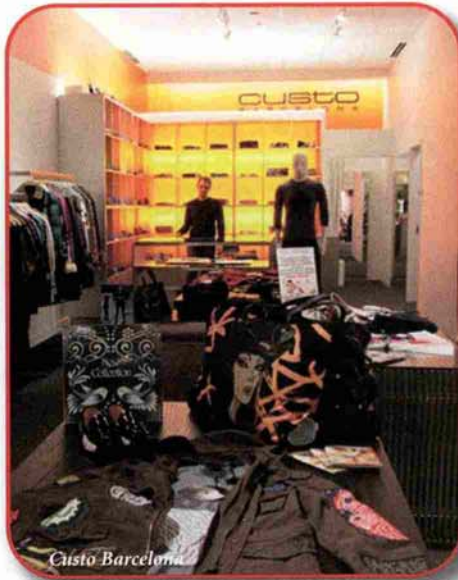
more than one of a kind!

by Mark Loehrke

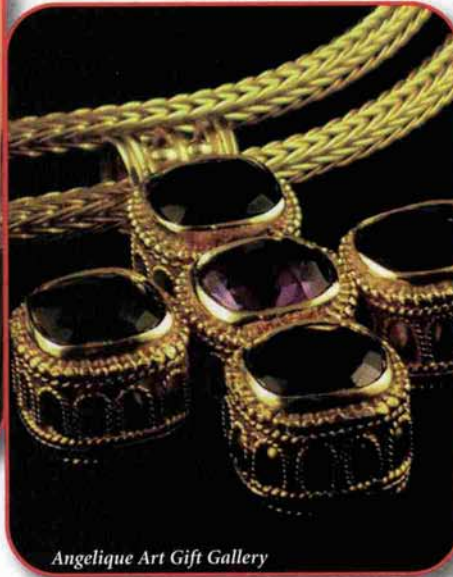
It is, one supposes, possible to spend some time this weekend at the **Merchandise Mart** taking in all of the unique creations on display at the annual **One of a Kind** show, and then just call it a day. But really, where's the fun in that? Sure, you'll have seen plenty of eclectic gift ideas and fascinating art pieces from all over the world, but when the city outside the Mart boasts so much more to explore, perhaps One of a Kind should just be one of the many stops along your journey through the retail bounty of Chicago.

52





Custo Barcelona



Angelique Art Gift Gallery

this week

Continue your search for the bold and daring at Spanish fashion house **Custo Barcelona** (835 N. Michigan, 2nd Floor; 312/981-3904), where even the grayest Chicago winter day is no match for the vibrant, colorful designs on the wraps, dresses and sportswear of this popular European outlet. Meanwhile, for elegant fashion accessories, **Tous** (835 N.



Michigan, 5th Floor; 312/640-8860) is a cute family-owned company specializing in fine wallets, jewelry, fragrances, handbags and scarves. Once you have something great to wear, how about something for the house? You won't even have to leave the comfort of

Water Tower Place to find a great selection of unique furnishing and décor pieces – many from local artists – at kitschy, compact **Chiaroscuro** (835 N. Michigan, 2nd Floor; 312/988-9253).

From there, it's off to see what State Street has to offer, but first, a quick pop-in to Gold Coast favorite **Angelique Art Gift Gallery** (6 W. Maple; 312/787-3671) for a few more interesting knick-knacks, as well as some great jewelry items from internationally renowned designers. After

all, the walls and tables aren't the only things that might benefit from some shrewd accessorizing.

Then it's over to State for a pair of solid boutique finds where, ironically, you never know quite what you're going to find. Inside the historic Tree Studios building is **P.O.S.H. Chicago** (613 N. State; 312/280-1602) – a definite departure from the same-old, same-old of the home décor chain stores for everything from old cookbooks to antique flatware and much more.

After nourishing your artistic spirit, it's time to head out and find a great place to nourish the body as well. You'll find a no-nonsense focus on great beef alongside signature items like Dijon & Herb Crusted New Zealand Lamb Chops with a cabernet demi-glaze and Rock Shrimp Risotto at the **Kinzie Chophouse** (400 N. Wells; 312/822-0191).

For additional one-of-a-kind gift ideas, visit our Holiday Gift Guide!