

and Cheryl Takacs. Quebec-based Bernard Chaudron, who makes custom makes pewter items, is represented by ARTEM as well.

ARTEM was set up as a service which matches clients to an artist, an area that Applebee found lacking in Hong Kong. "Hong Kong posed a challenge in that there is an abundance of available merchandise but mostly of name brands. There seemed to be a lack of individual expression...ARTEM was then launched with the goal, or business strategy, of providing clients with a range of art pieces suitable to individual requirements and budgets."

"All pieces are signed by the artist and are collector's items," says Applebee. "It's available for every budget from smaller perfume bottles and paperweights to larger commissioned pieces and sculptures."


Bank of Montreal looks at forces shaping Asia


A group of prominent business and political leaders who make up the Bank of Montreal's International Advisory Council (IAC) met in Hong Kong March 25 and 26. The discussion revolved around economic and political changes reshaping Asia's dealings with the rest of the world.

Dr Sylvia Ostry, chairman of the IAC, is one of Canada's foremost economists and chairman of the Centre for International Studies at the University of Toronto. She was also the guest speaker at the Chamber's Board of Governors' Dinner on March 23.

This is the first time the IAC has met in Asia since the body was established in 1986. Members of the Council represent a wide range of occupations and countries and meet to advise the Bank on political, economic and social trends and events impacting the Bank's operations. Members include: David Li, director and chief executive of The Bank of East Asia, Hun Jo Lee, vice-chairman and chief executive of Goldstar Co Ltd and Makato Kuroda, managing director of Mitsubishi Corporation. Bank of Montreal Chairman and Chief Executive Matthew Barrett was also present.

Asia is seen as an area of growing strategic importance. Mr Barrett travelled to China and Taipei following the two day conference. ♦

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