

MONEY

WEEK AHEAD Some key happenings in the world of finance this week:

Tomorrow

■ Senate hearing on regulation of securities and investor protection.

■ House hearing on the Treasury's measures to fight the financial crisis.

Wednesday

■ House hearing on TARP oversight and use of taxpayer money.

Thursday

■ Commerce Department reports on February retail sales.

Friday

■ Reports on international trade and consumer sentiment.

Seeing the patterns for the clothes

Fabric sleuth tracks vintage styles

BY LANA BORTOLOTT
Special to amNewYork

Emanuela Romano is a fashion hound dog: She sniffs out trendy patterns and fabrics at vintage clothing shops from here to the West Coast.

If paisley, polka dots and poppies are back in style, then vintage textile researchers such as Romano are on the hunt to retrieve samples for clients.

"You have to know what the clients are looking for, and the challenge is to constantly find new stuff," Romano said.

Romano, 42, runs her company, Martire Productions, from her home on Roosevelt Island. She is also the primary vintage textile researcher for Cherry Design Partners, a textile design studio formed by former colleagues of hers in the Garment District.

The Gap, Old Navy, Anne Klein, Jones New York, H&M and Macy's are on her client list.

Manufacturers and designers use her samples for inspiration or reference, sometimes mimicking patterns for their clothing lines. The designs change



Emanuela Romano finds inspiring patterns for fashion designers. (MARIE CLAIRE ANDREA)

in the translation: For instance, lines might become

squiggles or circles might become ovals.

When she founded her company in 2006, Romano

didn't have a first-year plan, but set her financial goal slightly below her last staff salary.

She met that goal, and the next year, doubled her business, she said.

Like everyone else, however, she has felt the pangs of the recession.

Designers who take fewer risks may shy away from the bolder patterns she peddles.

"The fashion industry is the first to be hit in a recession, and clients are cutting back or deciding to go with solids," she said. "They are afraid to take risks and are staying with what they know will sell."

Ticker

GOP down on GM; World Bank sees shrinkage

Republican leaders were critical yesterday of GM and throwing federal dollars at the ailing automaker. House Republican leader



Boehner

John Boehner said GM must show it can pay back billions in federal loans. Meanwhile, other GOP leaders, Sen. John McCain among

them, advocated bankruptcy protection for the company. ...

President Barack Obama has chosen three people — David S. Cohen, Alan B. Krueger and Kim N. Wallace — to join the senior ranks of the Treasury Department, where a slow pace of hiring has put the agency on the defensive. ...

The World Bank predicts the global economy will shrink this year for the first time since World War II, and sees trade at its lowest point in 80 years. It also said the growing global financial crisis will create a multibillion-dollar financing shortfall for poor and developing nations. ... Last week, the Dow Jones industrial average tumbled 6.2 percent and the Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 7 percent. The punishing slide has left the Dow and S&P 500 down by more than half from their October 2007 peaks. That makes it the second worst run since 1929-32, when the Dow lost more than 85 percent.

(AP)

Seems no data can rally Street

The weekly calendar holds little meaning on Wall Street these days.

Traders and investors who normally plot their course around expected economic figures and corporate announcements are trying to hang on in a market that isn't being corralled by the usual forces. These days, fear is driving.

Each week brings speculation about a turnaround. But as stocks grind lower, traders stop asking "When will it bottom?" and simply mutter "How long until the closing bell?"

Analysts don't expect the coming week to be an exception. Investors are focused on trying to detect whether there's any shift away from the market's overriding pessimism.

"We all know what data is coming out. And we're all expecting it to be terrible. Data is not going to make anybody come off the sidelines," said Jeffrey Frankel, president of Stuart Frankel & Co.

The safe bet in recent weeks has been to just expect more selling.

"Everyone is just getting accustomed to 'yesterday's lows are today's highs,'" Frankel said.

(AP)

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One Monday a month, MoMA stays open until 8:45 p.m. Drop in after hours for an art hunt, exhibitions, films, entertainment, cash bar, and a bite to eat at Cafe 2. The first 600 ticketbuyers after 5:30 p.m. receive free admission on their next visit.

Upcoming Mondays: April 6 and May 4

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