

For the person on your list who has everything, we're pretty sure Snob can help

CLERK

Every piece tells a story at Snob, which specializes in African decor, as owner Denise Zidel tells Sarah B. Hood.

Q *You're a radiologist by profession; what are you doing running a home décor import shop?* **A** Three years ago I had to go back to South Africa for the first time in 10 years. When I arrived, I felt illuminated. I realized that my life had become beige, and now I felt revved up again. I started talking to people, and one thing led

to another. **Q** *How did you get started collecting traditional craftworks?* **A** Every time I researched one piece it led me to a new one, and the stories were fantastic. I have a helmet made from bullet shells from the Sudanese war. It's not such an old piece, but I love it because of what it represents. **Q** *How do you source the*

newly manufactured housewares and furniture? **A** I'm working with small organizations — sometimes I'm sought out by them, and sometimes I come across them. I visit every producer and ask them a list of questions: Who works here, how do you pay them, what are your hours? I have to say, in Africa there are very stringent rules for the factories. ■ Snob is located at 388 Carlaw Ave. Unit 202F., 416-778-8778, snobstuff.com. *National Post*