



**Date:** October 30, 2020  
**TO:** MIAX PEARL Equities Members  
**FROM:** MIAX PEARL Equities Listings Department  
**Re:** VanEck Funds - OUNZ

MIAX PEARL, LLC (“Exchange”) commenced trading of equity securities on September 25, 2020 followed by a security-by-security phase-in period. This Product Circular is being issued to advise you that the following security has been approved for trading pursuant to unlisted trading privileges (“UTP”) on the Exchange as a UTP Derivative Security pursuant to Exchange Rule 2900, and will begin trading on MIAX PEARL during the phase-in period. See the [Exchange’s Website](#) for the phase-in schedule.

<u>Security (the “Fund”)</u>	<u>Symbol</u>
VanEck Merk Gold Trust	OUNZ

**Issuer/Trust:** VanEck Funds

**Issuer Website:** <https://www.vaneck.com/>

**Primary Listing Exchange:** NYSE Arca

The purpose of this Product Circular is to outline various rules and policies that will be applicable to trading in this new product pursuant to the Exchange’s unlisted trading privileges, as well as to provide certain characteristics and features of the Shares. For a more complete description of the Issuer, the Shares and the underlying market instruments or indexes, visit the Issuer Website, consult the Prospectus available on the Issuer Website, examine the Issuer Registration Statement or review the most current information bulletin issued by the Primary Listing Exchange. The Issuer Website, the Prospectus, the Issuer Registration Statement and the Primary Exchange Circular are hereafter collectively referred to as the “Issuer Disclosure Materials.”

**Background Information on the Fund**

The VanEck Merk Gold Trust (Trust) issues VanEck Merk Gold Shares (Shares), which represent units of fractional undivided beneficial interest in the Trust. The Trust’s primary objective is to provide investors with an opportunity to invest in gold through the Shares and be able to take delivery of physical gold bullion (physical gold) in exchange for their Shares. The Trust’s secondary objective is for the Shares to reflect the performance of the price of gold less the expenses of the Trust’s operations. The Trust is not actively managed. Merk Investments LLC is the Trust’s sponsor; The Bank of New York Mellon is the trustee of the Trust; and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. is the Trust’s custodian.

Physical gold that the Trust holds includes London Bars and, for the limited purposes described herein, other gold bars and coins, without numismatic value, having a minimum fineness (or purity) of 995 parts per 1,000 (99.5%) or, for American Gold Eagle gold coins, with a minimum fineness of 91.67%. Shares are issued by the Trust in blocks of 50,000 Shares called “Baskets” in exchange for gold from certain registered broker-dealers or other securities market participants (Authorized Participants). The Trust issues and redeems Baskets on an ongoing basis at net asset value to and from Authorized Participants who have entered into a contract with the Sponsor and the Trustee. Investors who would like to take delivery of physical gold in exchange for their Shares (Delivery Applicants) may submit Shares to the Trust in exchange for physical gold. See “Taking Delivery of Physical Gold.”

Shares will be offered to the public from time to time at prices that will reflect, among other things, the price of gold and the trading price of the Shares on NYSE Arca at the time of the offer. The Shares trade on NYSE Arca under the symbol “OUNZ.” On May 18, 2020, the closing price of our Shares was \$16.92 per share. The market price of the Shares may be different from the net asset value per share. Investing in the Shares involves significant risks. See “Risk Factors” starting on page 10. Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of the securities offered in this prospectus (Prospectus), or determined if this Prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense. The Trust is an “emerging growth company” as that term is used in the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act (JOBS Act). However, the Trust does not and will not take advantage of any exemptions or other relief provided to emerging growth companies under the JOBS Act.

The Shares are neither interests in nor obligations of either the Sponsor or the Trustee. The Shares are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency. The Trust is not an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended. The Trust is not a commodity pool for purposes of the Commodity Exchange Act of 1936, as amended, and the Sponsor is not subject to regulation by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission as a commodity pool operator or a commodity trading advisor.

As of May 18, 2020, there were 16,515,480 VanEck Merk Gold Shares outstanding.

The date of this Prospectus is May 19, 2020

#### Overview of the Trust Structure, the Sponsor, the Trustee and the Custodian

The Trust was formed pursuant to the Depositary Trust Agreement (Trust Agreement) on May 6, 2014 under New York State law as the Merk Gold Trust. The Trust Agreement was amended effective October 26, 2015, changing the name of the Trust to Van Eck Merk Gold Trust, and subsequently on April 28, 2016, changing the name of the Trust to VanEck Merk Gold Trust. The Trust’s primary objective is to provide investors with an opportunity to invest in gold through the Shares and be able to take delivery of physical gold bullion (physical gold) in exchange for those Shares. The Trust’s secondary objective is for the Shares to reflect the performance of the price of gold less the expenses of the Trust’s operations. Each share represents a fractional undivided beneficial interest in the Trust’s net assets. The Trust’s assets consist principally of gold held on the Trust’s behalf in financial institutions for safekeeping. Physical gold that the Trust holds includes London Bars and, for the limited purposes described herein, other gold bars and coins, without numismatic value, having a minimum fineness (or purity) of 995 parts per 1,000 (99.5%) or, for American Gold Eagle gold coins, with a minimum fineness of 91.67% (American Gold Eagle Coins).

The sponsor of the Trust is Merk Investments LLC (Sponsor). The Sponsor is a Delaware limited liability company. The Shares are neither interests in nor obligations of, and are not guaranteed by, the Sponsor, its member(s), or any of its affiliates.

The VanEck Merk Gold Shares provide investors with the opportunity to access the gold market through a traditional brokerage account. The Sponsor believes that investors will be able to more effectively implement strategic and tactical asset allocation strategies that use gold by investing in the Shares than by purchasing, holding and trading gold directly. The Trust is one of several exchange-traded products that seek to track the price of physical gold. Certain other financial products may gain exposure to physical gold through the use of derivatives that may be subject to counterparty and credit risks. The Trust does not hold or employ derivatives. Gold also is not subject to borrowing arrangements with third parties. Accordingly, the Trust's allocated gold is not subject to counterparty or credit risks. The value of gold is reported on the Trust's website daily. See "Business of the Trust - The Trust's Guiding Principles." Shares are issued by the Trust only in blocks of 50,000 Shares called "Baskets" in exchange for gold from certain registered broker-dealers or other securities market participants (Authorized Participants). See "Creation and Redemption of Shares by Authorized Participants" for requirements to qualify as an Authorized Participant. Baskets may be redeemed by the Trust in exchange for the amount of gold corresponding to their redemption value. The Trust issues and redeems Baskets on an ongoing basis at net asset value to Authorized Participants who have entered into a contract with the Sponsor and the Trustee (as described below).

Individual Shares will not be redeemed by the Trust but are listed and trade on NYSE Arca under the symbol "OUNZ." SM A Delivery Applicant may deliver Shares to the Trust in exchange for physical gold after submitting to the Sponsor a qualifying document that expresses the Delivery Applicant's non-binding intention to exchange Shares for physical gold on the Share Submission Day (Delivery Application) along with the applicable processing fees. See "Taking Delivery of Physical Gold." The number of Shares to be delivered must correspond in value to the Fine Ounce content of physical gold requested. To meet its primary objective to provide investors with an opportunity to invest in gold through the Shares and to be able to take delivery of physical gold in exchange for their Shares, the Trust is committed to its guiding principles. See "Business of the Trust - The Trust's Guiding Principles."

### **Principal Risks**

Interested persons are referred to the discussion in the prospectus for the Fund of the principal risks of an investment in the Fund. These include tracking error risk (factors causing a Fund's performance to not match the performance of its underlying index), market trading risk (for example, trading halts, trading above or below net asset value), investment style risk, sector risk, investment approach risk, non-diversification risk, issuer-specific risk, management risk, concentration risk, equity securities risk, sector risk and passive investment risk.

### **Exchange Rules Applicable to Trading in the Shares**

Trading in the Shares on MIAX PEARL is subject to MIAX PEARL trading rules.

### **Trading Hours**

The value of the Index underlying the Shares will be disseminated to data vendors every 15 seconds during the Regular Trading Session.

The Shares will trade on MIAX PEARL between 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Please note that trading in the Shares during the Exchange’s Pre-Market and Post-Market Sessions (“Extended Market Sessions”) may result in additional trading risks which include: (1) that the current underlying indicative value may not be updated during the Extended Market Sessions, (2) lower liquidity in the Extended Market Sessions may impact pricing, (3) higher volatility in the Extended Market Sessions may impact pricing, (4) wider spreads may occur in the Extended Markets Sessions, and (5) because the indicative value is not calculated or widely disseminated during the Extended Market Sessions, an investor who is unable to calculate an implied value for the Shares in those sessions may be at a disadvantage to market professionals.

### **Dissemination of Data**

The Consolidated Tape Association will disseminate real time trade and quote information for the Shares to Tape B.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Listing Market</b>	<b>Trading Symbol</b>	<b>IOPV Symbol</b>	<b>NAV Symbol</b>
VanEck Merk Gold Trust	NYSE Arca	OUNZ	OUNZ.IV	OUNZ.NV

### **Delivery of a Prospectus**

MIAX PEARL Equity Members should be mindful of applicable prospectus delivery requirements under the federal securities laws with respect to transactions in the Fund. Prospectuses may be obtained through the Fund’s website. The prospectus for the Fund does not contain all of the information set forth in the Fund’s Registration Statement (including the exhibits to the Registration Statement), parts of which have been omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. For further information about the Fund, please refer to its Registration Statement.

In the event that the Fund relies upon an order by the SEC exempting the Shares from certain prospectus delivery requirements under Section 24(d) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 and in the future make available a written product description, MIAX PEARL Rules requires that MIAX PEARL Equity Members provide to all purchasers of Shares a written description of the terms and characteristics of such securities, in a form prepared by the Issuer of the Fund, no later than the time a confirmation of the first transaction in the Shares is delivered to such purchaser. In addition, MIAX PEARL Equity Members shall include such a written description with any sales material relating to the Shares that is provided to customers or the public. Any other written materials provided by an MIAX PEARL Equity Member to customers or the public making specific reference to the Shares as an investment vehicle must include a statement in substantially the following form: “A circular describing the terms and characteristics of [the UTP Exchange Traded Products] has been prepared by the [open-ended management investment company name] and is available from your broker. It is recommended that you obtain and review such circular before purchasing [the UTP Exchange Traded Products].”

A MIAX PEARL Equity Member carrying an omnibus account for a non-member broker-dealer is required to inform such non-member that execution of an order to purchase Shares for such omnibus account will be deemed to constitute agreement by the non-member to make such written description available to its customers on the same terms as are directly applicable to MIAX PEARL Equity Member under this rule.

Upon request of a customer, MIAX PEARL Members also shall provide a copy of the Prospectus.

### **Suitability**

Trading in the securities on the Exchange will be subject to the provisions of MIAX PEARL Rule 2107 and other applicable suitability rules. Equity Members recommending transactions in the securities to customers should make a determination that the recommendation is suitable for the customer.

### **Trading Halts**

MIAX PEARL will halt trading in the Shares of a security in accordance with MIAX PEARL Rules. The grounds for a halt under MIAX PEARL Rules include a halt by the primary market because the intraday indicative value of the security and/or the value of its underlying index are not being disseminated as required, or a halt for other regulatory reasons. In addition, MIAX PEARL will stop trading the Shares of a security if the primary market de-lists the security.

### **Exemptive, Interpretive and No-Action Relief Under Federal Securities Regulations**

The Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") has issued letters granting exemptive, interpretive and no-action relief from certain provisions of rules under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for exchange-traded securities listed and traded on a registered national securities exchange that meet certain criteria.

AS WHAT FOLLOWS IS ONLY A SUMMARY OF THE RELIEF OUTLINED IN THE NO-ACTION LETTERS REFERENCED ABOVE, THE EXCHANGE ADVISES INTERESTED PARTIES TO CONSULT THE NO- ACTION LETTERS FOR MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION REGARDING THE MATTERS COVERED THEREIN AND THE APPLICABILITY OF THE RELIEF GRANTED IN RESPECT OF TRADING IN SECURITIES. INTERESTED PARTIES SHOULD ALSO CONSULT THEIR PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS.

### **Regulation M Exemptions**

Generally, Rules 101 and 102 of Regulation M prohibit any "distribution participant" and its "affiliated purchasers" from bidding for, purchasing, or attempting to induce any person to bid for or purchase any security which is the subject of a distribution until after the applicable restricted period, except as specifically permitted in Regulation M. The provisions of the Rules apply to underwriters, prospective underwriters, brokers, dealers, and other persons who have agreed to participate or are participating in a distribution of securities.

The SEC has granted an exemption from Rule 101 under Regulation M to permit persons participating in a distribution of shares of the above-mentioned Fund to engage in secondary market transactions in such

shares during their participation in such a distribution. In addition, the SEC has granted relief under Regulation M to permit persons who may be deemed to be participating in the distribution of Shares of the above-mentioned Fund (i) to purchase securities for the purpose of purchasing Creation Unit Aggregations of Fund Shares and (ii) to tender securities for redemption in Creation Unit Aggregations. Further, the SEC has clarified that the tender of Fund Shares to the Fund for redemption does not constitute a bid for or purchase of any of the Fund's securities during the restricted period of Rule 101. The SEC has also granted an exemption pursuant to paragraph (e) of Rule 102 under Regulation M to allow the redemption of Fund Shares in Creation Unit Aggregations during the continuous offering of Shares.

#### **Rule 10b-10 (Customer Confirmations for Creation or Redemption of Fund Shares)**

Broker-dealers who handle purchases or redemptions of Fund Shares in Creation Unit size for customers will be permitted to provide such customers with a statement of the number of Creation Unit Aggregations created or redeemed without providing a statement of the identity, number and price of shares of the individual securities tendered to the Fund for purposes of purchasing Creation Unit Aggregations ("Deposit Securities") or the identity, number and price of shares to be delivered by the Trust for the Fund to the redeeming holder ("Redemption Securities"). The composition of the securities required to be tendered to the Fund for creation purposes and of the securities to be delivered on redemption will be disseminated each business day and will be applicable to requests for creations or redemption, as the case may be, on that day. This exemptive relief under Rule 10b-10 with respect to creations and redemption is subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Confirmations to customers engaging in creations or redemptions must state that all information required by Rule 10b-10 will be provided upon request;
- 2) Any such request by a customer for information required by Rule 10b-10 will be filed in a timely manner, in accordance with Rule 10b-10(c); and
- 3) Except for the identity, number, and price of shares of the component securities of the Deposit Securities and Redemption Securities, as described above, confirmations to customers must disclose all other information required by Rule 10b-10(a).

#### **Rule 10b-17 (Untimely Announcement of Record Dates)**

The SEC has granted an exemption from the requirements of Rule 10b-17 that will cover transactions in the Shares.

#### **Section 11(d)(1); Rule 11d1-2 (Customer Margin)**

The SEC has taken a no-action position under Section 11(d)(1) that will permit broker-dealers that do not create Shares but engage in both proprietary and customer transactions in such Shares exclusively in the secondary market to extend or maintain or arrange for the extension or maintenance of credit on the Shares, in connection with such secondary market transactions. For broker-dealers that engage in the creation of Shares, the SEC has also taken a no-action position under Rule 11d1-2 that will cover the extension or maintenance or the arrangement for the extension or maintenance of credit on the Shares that have been owned by the persons to whom credit is provided for more than 30 days.

### **Rule 14e-5**

An exemption from Rule 14e-5 has been granted to permit any person acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a component security of the Fund (1) to redeem Fund Shares in Creation Unit Aggregations from the issuer that may include a security subject to such tender offer and (2) to purchase Fund Shares during such tender offer. In addition, a no-action position has been taken under Rule 14e-5 if a broker-dealer acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a security of the Fund purchases or arranges to purchase such securities in the secondary market for the purpose of tendering such securities to purchase one or more Creation Unit Aggregations of Shares, if made in conformance with the following:

- 1) such bids or purchases are effected in the ordinary course of business, in connection with a basket of 20 or more securities in which any security that is the subject of a distribution, or any reference security, does not comprise more than 5% of the value of the basket purchase; or
- 2) purchases are effected as adjustments to such basket in the ordinary course of business as a result of a change in the composition of the underlying index; and
- 3) such bids or purchases are not effected for the purpose of facilitating such tender offer.

### **SEC Rule 15c1-5 and 15c1-6 (Disclosure of Control and interest in Distributions)**

The SEC has taken a no-action position under Rule 15c1-5 that will permit a broker-dealer to execute transactions in Shares without disclosing any control relationship with an issuer of a component security. In addition, the SEC has taken a no-action position under Rule 15c1-6 that will permit a broker dealer to execute transactions in the Shares without disclosing its participation or interest in a primary or secondary distribution of a component security.

This Product Circular is not a statutory prospectus. MIAX PEARL Equity Members should consult the prospectus for a security and the security's website for relevant information.

Please direct product listing questions to MIAX PEARL Equities Listings at [Listings@MIAXOptions.com](mailto:Listings@MIAXOptions.com) or (609) 897-7308.

Please direct regulatory questions to the MIAX PEARL Regulatory Department at [Regulatory@MIAXOptions.com](mailto:Regulatory@MIAXOptions.com) or (609) 897-7309.