



# Artisan Small Cap Fund

MONTHLY  
Commentary

Investor Class: ARTSX | Advisor Class: APDSX

As of 28 February 2019

## Commentary

Markets are solidly in the black QTD led by the US, with foreign developed stocks and emerging markets trailing. Investors' concerns about ratcheting trade tensions seem to be easing, boosting markets. Meanwhile, major developed-world central banks have generally indicated they will pause on further rate hikes pending strong economic data. Strength across sectors has been broad-based, led by technology, industrials and energy—the latter as oil prices have bounced sharply to start the year. Utilities, health care and staples are the bottom-performing sectors QTD. From a style perspective, growth leads value, and smaller stocks are outperforming their larger counterparts.

Our portfolio leads the Russell 2000® Growth and Russell 2000® Indices QTD. Among our top QTD contributors are Veeva Systems and Q2 Holdings—both leading software companies which are executing impressively in their respective markets. Veeva Systems, a leading provider of cloud-based SaaS solutions for the pharmaceutical and life sciences industries, is benefiting from broader adoption of its expanding product suite among pharmaceuticals customers—particularly within the areas of clinical-trial and clinical-data management. Q2 Holdings, a provider of secure, cloud-based virtual banking solutions to regional and community banks, is capitalizing on the secular trend toward digital payments to drive a compelling profit cycle. Both companies are good examples of the types of profit cycles we seek, and we maintain our conviction in these high-quality franchises.

Among our very few negative QTD contributors are Garden<sup>SM</sup> holdings Tabula Rasa and SiteOne Landscape Supply. Tabula Rasa is a medication risk-mitigation provider serving primarily Provider for All-Inclusive for the Elderly (PACE) markets. Shares have been pressured as investors contemplate the potential impact of the company's decision to continue reinvesting in its business. However, we believe the fundamentals remain intact and are remaining patient while we watch for signs our thesis is taking hold as anticipated.

Conversely, we concluded our Garden<sup>SM</sup> campaign in SiteOne, the largest and only wholesale distributor of landscape supplies in the US. We had held SiteOne as we anticipated it would consolidate a highly fragmented industry under the leadership of its capable management team. The recent departure of the company's head of corporate strategy delays our thesis at best, and we consequently concluded our campaign in favor of better opportunities elsewhere.

Our process is focused on identifying franchises exposed to accelerating profit cycles with reasonable valuations. It is our belief that owning companies with these characteristics should lead to outperformance over full market cycles. We will continue to adhere to this approach, regardless of the macro backdrop and how it evolves in the period ahead.

## Investment Results (%)

As of 28 February 2019	MTD	QTD	YTD	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	Inception
<b>Investor Class: ARTSX</b>	<b>8.81</b>	<b>24.64</b>	<b>24.64</b>	<b>21.02</b>	<b>24.73</b>	<b>9.68</b>	<b>20.56</b>	<b>9.69</b>
<b>Advisor Class: APDSX</b>	<b>8.81</b>	<b>24.67</b>	<b>24.67</b>	<b>21.18</b>	<b>24.85</b>	<b>9.74</b>	<b>20.60</b>	<b>9.71</b>
Russell 2000® Growth Index	6.46	18.75	18.75	6.70	18.27	8.16	17.69	7.89
Russell 2000® Index	5.20	17.03	17.03	5.58	16.67	7.36	16.60	9.28

  

As of 31 December 2018	MTD	QTD	YTD	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	Inception
<b>Investor Class: ARTSX</b>	<b>-11.87</b>	<b>-19.85</b>	<b>2.25</b>	<b>2.25</b>	<b>11.02</b>	<b>6.38</b>	<b>15.60</b>	<b>8.75</b>
<b>Advisor Class: APDSX</b>	<b>-11.87</b>	<b>-19.80</b>	<b>2.38</b>	<b>2.38</b>	<b>11.11</b>	<b>6.43</b>	<b>15.63</b>	<b>8.76</b>
Russell 2000® Growth Index	-11.68	-21.65	-9.31	-9.31	7.24	5.13	13.52	7.17
Russell 2000® Index	-11.88	-20.20	-11.01	-11.01	7.36	4.41	11.97	8.62

Source: Artisan Partners/Russell. Returns for periods less than one year are not annualized. Class inception: Investor (28 March 1995); Advisor (1 February 2017). For the period prior to inception, Advisor Class performance is the Investor Class's return for that period ("Linked Performance"). Linked Performance has not been restated to reflect expenses of the Advisor Class and the share class's returns during that period would be different if such expenses were reflected.

Past performance does not guarantee and is not a reliable indicator of future results. Investment returns and principal values will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than that shown. Call 800.344.1770 for current to most recent month-end performance.

## Portfolio Details

	ARTSX	APDSX
Net Asset Value (NAV)	\$32.48	\$32.59
Inception	28 Mar 1995	1 Feb 2017
Expense Ratios		
Annual Report 30 Sep 2018	1.20%	1.06%
Prospectus 30 Sep 2018 <sup>1</sup>	1.21%	1.06%

<sup>1</sup>See prospectus for further details.

## Top 10 Holdings (% of total portfolio)

Veeva Systems Inc (Health Care)	4.9
Teledyne Technologies Inc (Industrials)	3.9
Q2 Holdings Inc (Information Technology)	3.8
DexCom Inc (Health Care)	3.2
Guidewire Software Inc (Information Technology)	3.0
Tableau Software Inc (Information Technology)	2.9
Chegg Inc (Consumer Discretionary)	2.8
HubSpot Inc (Information Technology)	2.6
Webster Financial Corp (Financials)	2.6
Canada Goose Holdings Inc (Consumer Discretionary)	2.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32.1%</b>

Source: Artisan Partners/FactSet (GICS).

## Sector Diversification (% of total portfolio equities)

	Fund
Communication Services	4.1
Consumer Discretionary	12.9
Consumer Staples	0.0
Energy	0.0
Financials	4.0
Health Care	23.8
Industrials	16.9
Information Technology	36.9
Materials	1.6
Real Estate	0.0
Utilities	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Artisan Partners/FactSet (GICS). Cash and cash equivalents represented 2.1% of the total portfolio.

## Average Annual Total Returns

	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	Inception
<b>Investor Class: ARTSX</b>	<b>21.02</b>	<b>24.73</b>	<b>9.68</b>	<b>20.56</b>	<b>9.69</b>
<b>Advisor Class: APDSX</b>	<b>21.18</b>	<b>24.85</b>	<b>9.74</b>	<b>20.60</b>	<b>9.71</b>
Russell 2000® Growth Index	6.70	18.27	8.16	17.69	7.89
Russell 2000® Index	5.58	16.67	7.36	16.60	9.28

## Market Cap Distribution (% of total portfolio equities)

\$ in billions	Fund	R2G <sup>1</sup>
3.4+	69.3	28.1
2.5–3.4	17.9	19.8
1.8–2.5	6.1	18.5
1.1–1.8	6.3	16.0
0.0–1.1	0.5	17.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Artisan Partners/FactSet/Russell. <sup>1</sup>Russell 2000<sup>®</sup> Growth Index.

## Team Leadership (Pictured left to right)



Portfolio Managers	Years of Investment Experience
Craig A. Cepukenas, CFA (Lead)	30
James D. Hamel, CFA	22
Matthew H. Kamm, CFA	19
Jason L. White, CFA	19

Carefully consider the Fund's investment objective, risks and charges and expenses. This and other important information is contained in the Fund's prospectus and summary prospectus, which can be obtained by calling 800.344.1770. Read carefully before investing.

International investments involve special risks, including currency fluctuation, lower liquidity, different accounting methods and economic and political systems, and higher transaction costs. These risks typically are greater in emerging markets. Securities of small- and medium-sized companies tend to have a shorter history of operations, be more volatile and less liquid and may have underperformed securities of large companies during some periods. Growth securities may underperform other asset types during a given period.

Russell 2000<sup>®</sup> Growth Index measures the performance of US small-cap companies with higher price/book ratios and forecasted growth values. Russell 2000<sup>®</sup> Index measures the performance of roughly 2,000 US small-cap companies. The index(es) are unmanaged; include net reinvested dividends; do not reflect fees or expenses; and are not available for direct investment.

For the purpose of determining the Fund's holdings, securities of the same issuer are aggregated to determine the weight in the Fund. The discussion of portfolio holdings does not constitute a recommendation of any individual security. These holdings comprise the following percentages of the Fund's total net assets as of 28 Feb 2019: Tabula Rasa HealthCare Inc 0.8%. Securities named in the Commentary, but not listed as a Top Ten Holding or not listed here are not held in the Fund as of the date of this report. The portfolio managers' views and portfolio holdings are subject to change and the Fund disclaims any obligation to advise investors of such changes.

Unless otherwise indicated, all information in this report includes all classes of shares, except performance and expense ratio information, and is as of the date shown in the upper right hand corner. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

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Sector exposure percentages reflect sector designations as currently classified by GICS.

Our capital allocation process is designed to build position size according to our conviction. Portfolio holdings develop through three stages: Garden<sup>SM</sup>, Crop<sup>SM</sup> and Harvest<sup>SM</sup>. Garden<sup>SM</sup> investments are situations where we believe we are right, but there is not clear evidence that the profit cycle has taken hold, so positions are small. Crop<sup>SM</sup> investments are holdings where we have gained conviction in the company's profit cycle, so positions are larger. Harvest<sup>SM</sup> investments are holdings that have exceeded our estimate of intrinsic value or holdings where there is a deceleration in the company's profit cycle. Harvest<sup>SM</sup> investments are generally being reduced or sold from the portfolios.

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