



Artisan Sustainable Emerging Markets Fund

QUARTERLY
Commentary

Investor Class: ARTZX | Institutional Class: APHEX

As of 30 September 2021

Investment Process

We seek to invest in companies that are uniquely positioned to benefit from the growth potential in emerging markets and that possess a sustainable global competitive advantage.

Sustainable Earnings

We believe over the long term a stock's price is directly related to the company's ability to deliver sustainable earnings. We determine a company's sustainable earnings based upon financial and strategic analyses. Our financial analysis of a company's balance sheet, income statement and statement of cash flows focuses on identifying historical drivers of return on equity. Our strategic analysis examines a company's competitive advantages and financial strength to assess sustainability.

Risk Analysis

We believe a disciplined risk framework allows greater focus on fundamental stock selection. We incorporate our assessment of company-specific, sustainability and macroeconomic risks into our valuation analysis to develop a risk-adjusted target price. Our risk-rating assessment includes a review of incident-based and empirical ESG factors and country-appropriate macroeconomic risk factors to which a company is exposed.

Valuation

We believe that investment opportunities develop when businesses with sustainable earnings are undervalued relative to peers and historical industry, country and regional valuations. We value a business and develop a price target for a company based on our assessment of the business's sustainable earnings and risk analysis.

Team Overview

Team experience, continuity and a rigorous investment process are the characteristics that we believe differentiate our team from other emerging markets investment managers. Research analysts have autonomy and ownership of their regions and accountability for the success of their ideas. Our team members bring deep experience and uncommon insight to their respective areas of responsibility.

Investment Team



Maria Negrete-Gruson, CFA
Portfolio Manager



Meagan Nace, CFA
Analyst



Chen Gu, CFA
Analyst



Nicolas Rodriguez-Brizuela
Analyst



Gurpreet Pal
Analyst



Jessica Lin, CFA
Analyst

Investment Results (%)

As of 30 September 2021	Average Annual Total Returns							Inception ¹	Inception ²
	QTD	YTD	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr			
Investor Class: ARTZX	-9.41	-1.89	19.50	10.09	9.90	6.39	1.68	—	
Institutional Class: APHEX	-9.36	-1.71	19.74	10.27	10.03	6.56	—	5.68	
MSCI Emerging Markets Index	-8.09	-1.25	18.20	8.58	9.23	6.09	2.71	6.37	

Source: Artisan Partners/MSCI. Returns for periods less than one year are not annualized. ¹Investor Class inception: 2 June 2008. ²Institutional Class inception: 26 June 2006.

Expense Ratios (% Gross/Net)	ARTZX	APHEX
Semi-Annual Report 31 Mar 2021 ^{1,2,3}	1.66/1.35	1.76/1.20
Prospectus 30 Sep 2020 ^{2,3}	1.73/1.35	2.29/1.20

¹Unaudited, annualized for the six-month period. ²Net expenses reflect a contractual expense limitation agreement in effect through 31 Jan 2022. ³See prospectus for further details.

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. Performance may reflect agreements to limit a Fund's expenses, which would reduce performance if not in effect.



Portfolio Discussion

Our portfolio trailed the MSCI EM Index in Q3. Emerging market (EM) equities registered their first quarterly decline since Q1 2020's COVID-19 driven selloff. China was a significant source of EM weakness, driven by the government's regulatory campaign, soft economic data and the potential default of Evergrande, one of China's largest property developers. However, even excluding China, EM equities declined in Q3. At the country level, China, Korea and Brazil were the benchmark's primary Q3 detractors while India was the benchmark's leading contributor.

The portfolio has been structurally underweight China for a number of years. And while the underweight exposure was a positive this quarter given China's poor performance, what ultimately drives our portfolio performance is stock selection. In Q3, our positions did not escape the Chinese selloff. However, we firmly believe the portfolio's China exposure captures the appropriate opportunity set of companies offering a combination of unique access to growth and sustainable competitive advantages—as well as relatively less policy risk. The team's fundamental investment process, particularly in relation to environmental, social and governance (ESG), has led to a tilting toward domestically-oriented companies in lesser developed and cutting-edge industries. China's government views several of these industries as important to develop in order to achieve greater economic and technological self-sufficiency. While new regulations and Evergrande will continue to drive near-term market uncertainty, we believe the growth prospects of our current Chinese positions remain strong.

Among our leading Q3 relative detractors were Estun Automation, Alibaba and Zhuzhou CRRC Times Electric. Estun Automation is a leading domestic Chinese robot producer. COVID-19 related supply challenges, including higher raw material and transportation costs, have been hampering Estun's production and margins. Most notably, the company imports key components from UK and German companies it acquired in recent years. Estun also lowered some product prices, squeezing margins even more. However, we believe the negative market reaction has been overdone—driven more by broader market volatility and negative investor sentiment than a change in Estun's long-term fundamentals. In addition, Estun has been shifting more component production to China in order to reduce supply risks.

Shares of Alibaba, China's largest e-commerce platform, have been heavily penalized by the Chinese government's recent regulatory campaign aimed at the country's technology companies. While near-term regulatory risk is significant, the Chinese government still supports marketplace innovation; the government's stated intention is to reduce anti-competitive behavior, improve data privacy and protect both consumers and employees. We believe Alibaba's core e-commerce business remains highly attractive and the stock price has considerable upside potential. Even after taking into consideration the regulatory impact, especially to its financial business, we believe Alibaba still can generate strong, sustainable earnings growth.

Zhuzhou CRRC Times Electric provides and integrates train-borne electrical systems for China's railway industry. Shares of Zhuzhou rallied in the first half of the year, due in large part to the strong outlook for its non-rail business, but gave back some gains amid China's third-quarter market volatility. We believe Zhuzhou's non-rail business has a sustainable competitive advantage and provides unique access to growth. Zhuzhou designs and manufactures insulated gate bipolar transistors (IGBTs)—switches well suited for high-voltage applications such as power grids and electric vehicles (EVs). China's EV market is the world's largest and growing fast. In addition, the Chinese government wants to rapidly develop domestic high-tech industries and the country's power grid.

Among our most significant Q3 relative contributors were Havells India, Kajaria Ceramics and MercadoLibre. Havells India is an electrical goods company focused on lighting products, fans, switches, cables, switchgears and consumer appliances. India's severe wave of the COVID-19 delta variant receded in the third quarter, allowing the country to start reopening. We believe Havells has done a good job navigating the pandemic and will benefit from any pent-up consumer demand in the near term. Havells' long-term prospects look strong as well. India has a rising urban middle class, which is aspirational in nature and prefers branded products sold within the organized retail market. Havells also has plans to expand aggressively into semi-urban and rural markets, as India is significantly expanding electrification and improving power supply reliability in these areas.

Kajaria Ceramics is India's largest tile manufacturer. COVID-19 dampened Indian consumer demand and Kajaria's profitability over the past year, but similar to Havells, the company is well-positioned as India's economy reopens. Kajaria has been increasing capacity and gaining domestic market share, providing the company with a positive growth outlook.

MercadoLibre, Latin America's leading online commerce platform, has benefited from and contributed to the region's increasing e-commerce penetration. Years of significant investments in its logistics network, data analysis and Pago digital wallet platform are helping MercadoLibre gain market share, improve its operational efficiency, enhance its online ecosystem and increase profitability. We believe e-commerce in Latin America will likely become more competitive as the industry matures, but MercadoLibre's investments should allow the company to maintain its operational advantage and enable long-term earnings growth.

Portfolio Activity

Portfolio activity was limited this quarter. No matter which way the market is moving, valuation is an important part of our investment process—we always seek companies with sustainable growth characteristics that are trading at compelling valuations.

We initiated positions in GPS Participacoes e Empreendimentos and NIO. GPS is Brazil's largest outsourcing provider, with a complete portfolio of services, including facilities management, security,

industrial and indoor logistics. The company's leading position in a fragmented and underpenetrated market gives it a strong growth outlook. GPS also has multiple competitive advantages. It relies on technology to enhance efficiency and customer service, such as monitor job completion, suggest new services and track work history. GPS maintains a strong balance sheet and settles most labor claims up front, avoiding an accumulation of legal liabilities. In Brazil, customers assume legal labor claims if the contracted outsourcing company can't pay (e.g., bankruptcy). From an ESG perspective, GPS uses only concentrated and biodegradable cleaning products and operates battery-powered machines. The company provides employees—many of whom have lower socioeconomic backgrounds—attractive pay and benefits, as well as training and advancement opportunities.

NIO manufactures EVs and provides battery charging services. As already stated, China is the world's largest EV market, and the penetration rate is expected to increase from nearly 5% today to 35% by 2030. Government policy is supportive of EVs, consumers are increasingly receptive to smart EVs, and growth in ridesharing is accelerating EV penetration. Overall, we believe NIO is the best positioned domestic EV manufacturer due to its technology and early-mover advantages. NIO's existing scale and premium SUV product offerings give it an attractive competitive position. Its vehicles are less expensive than Teslas, but more premium than other Chinese EV brands. In addition, NIO's proprietary battery-swapping technology enables it to offer Battery-as-a-Service (BaaS). Consumers can purchase vehicles without batteries at a reduced price and opt for a monthly battery pack subscription.

We exited our position in Banco Davivienda. The lender has a strong presence in Colombia due in part to DaviPlata, its e-banking platform. However, the pandemic severely impacted Colombia's economy. While we expect Banco Davivienda to recover, a return to pre-pandemic sustainable ROE will likely take a long time. We redeployed this capital into our new positions as well as higher conviction existing positions.

Perspective

Emerging markets appear to be making progress in the battle against COVID-19, with fewer countries confronting widespread humanitarian and economic crises. India's receding number of new cases and deaths has been particularly encouraging.

The rollout of vaccines in EM—admittedly slower than hoped in many countries—offers the prospect that life will return to some semblance of normal. From a financial perspective, many EM companies are well-positioned to leverage their competitive advantages as the pandemic recedes. Company earnings on a year-over-year basis should also be favorable following a difficult 2020.

Our experience of two decades through various market cycles and environments gives us the confidence to stay true to our investment process. We believe a bottom-up emphasis on long-term

fundamentals and valuation discipline is the best way to compound assets over the long term.

We look for companies that take advantage of a growth opportunity and develop a business model around it, allowing them to build enduring growth and earnings over time. In addition, we seek companies with a sustainable competitive advantage because the environments in which these companies operate change rapidly. A long-term, defensible competitive advantage is the key to surviving the inevitable crisis times in emerging markets such as we are currently experiencing.

We also perform a country risk analysis to enhance our assessment of the company's target P/E. We estimate which macroeconomic risk factors are the most relevant for each country and how those factors impact a company. Our country risk assessment is not a beauty contest—we are not comparing one country to another. Each emerging market is in a different place in its economic, social and political development. Therefore, it is important to compare a country's risks to its own history and to identify improvements or deterioration over time and how those factors may impact a prospective investment.

Travel has long been an important way for us to build strong relations with management teams, to see companies up close and to better understand local markets. Understanding helps us develop conviction around investment decisions. Unfortunately, we believe travel will largely remain impractical for a while longer. We will continue leveraging our strong relationships and digital communication tools to maintain productive interactions with company management teams and identify opportunities. We remain confident this prolonged period of suspended travel will not negatively impact our investment process of extensive financial and strategic analysis, management research and ESG considerations.

ARTISAN CANVAS

Timely insights and updates from our investment teams and firm leadership
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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.

Current and future portfolio holdings are subject to risk. A non-diversified portfolio may invest a larger portion of assets in securities of a smaller number of issuers and performance of a single issuer may affect overall portfolio performance greater than in a diversified portfolio. 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. Such risks include new and rapidly changing political and economic structures, which may cause instability; underdeveloped securities markets; and higher likelihood of high levels of inflation, deflation or currency devaluations. 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.

MSCI Emerging Markets Index measures the performance of emerging markets. The index(es) are unmanaged; include net reinvested dividends; do not reflect fees or expenses; and are not available for direct investment.

This summary represents the views of the portfolio managers as of 30 Sep 2021. Those views may change, and the Fund disclaims any obligation to advise investors of such changes. For the purpose of determining the Fund's holdings, securities of the same issuer are aggregated to determine the weight in the Fund. The holdings mentioned above comprised the following percentages of the Fund's total net assets as of 30 Sep 2021: Zhuzhou CRRC Times Electric Co Ltd 2.6%, Alibaba Group Holding Ltd 5.0%, Estun Automation Co Ltd 1.5%, Havells India Ltd 1.7%, Kajaria Ceramics Ltd 2.4%, MercadoLibre Inc 3.5%, GPS Participacoes e Empreendimentos SA 0.6%, NIO Inc 0.4%. Securities named in the Commentary, but not listed here are not held in the Fund as of the date of this report. Portfolio holdings are subject to change without notice and are not intended as recommendations of individual securities. All information in this report, unless otherwise indicated, includes all classes of shares (except performance and expense ratio information) and is as of the date shown in the upper right hand corner. This material does not constitute investment advice.

Attribution is used to evaluate the investment management decisions which affected the portfolio's performance when compared to a benchmark index. Attribution is not exact, but should be considered an approximation of the relative contribution of each of the factors considered.

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Return on Equity (ROE) is a profitability ratio that measures the amount of net income returned as a percentage of shareholders' equity. **Price-to-Earnings (P/E)** is a valuation ratio of a company's current share price compared to its per-share earnings.

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