



# Artisan Global Opportunities Fund

QUARTERLY  
Commentary

Artisan Partners Global Funds plc

As of 30 September 2018

For Institutional Investors Only — Not for Onward Distribution

## Investment Process

We seek to invest in companies that possess franchise characteristics, are benefiting from an accelerating profit cycle and are trading at a discount to our estimate of private market value. Our investment process focuses on two distinct elements—security selection and capital allocation. We overlay our investment process with broad knowledge of the global economy.

### Security Selection

We seek to identify companies that have franchise characteristics (e.g. low cost production capability, possession of a proprietary asset, dominant market share or a defensible brand name), are benefiting from an accelerating profit cycle and are trading at a discount to our estimate of private market value. We look for companies that are well positioned for long-term growth, which is driven by demand for their products and services, at an early enough stage in their profit cycle to benefit from the increased cash flows produced by the emerging profit cycle.

### Capital Allocation

Based on our fundamental analysis of a company's profit cycle, we divide the portfolio into three parts. Garden<sup>SM</sup> investments are small positions in the early part of their profit cycle that may warrant more sizeable allocations as their profit cycle accelerates. Crop<sup>SM</sup> investments are positions that are being increased to a full weight because they are moving through the strongest part of their profit cycles. Harvest<sup>SM</sup> investments are positions that are being reduced as they near our estimates of full valuation or their profit cycles begin to decelerate.

### Broad Knowledge

We overlay the security selection and capital allocation elements of our investment process with a desire to invest opportunistically across the entire global economy. We seek broad knowledge of the global economy in order to find growth wherever it occurs.

## Team Overview

We believe deep industry expertise, broad investment knowledge, a highly collaborative decision-making process and individual accountability are a powerful combination. Since the inception of the team, we have been committed to building a team of growth investors that retains these attributes and is solely dedicated to our process and approach.

## Portfolio Management



James D. Hamel, CFA  
Portfolio Manager (Lead)



Matthew H. Kamm, CFA  
Portfolio Manager



Craig A. Cepukenas, CFA  
Portfolio Manager



Jason L. White, CFA  
Portfolio Manager

## Investment Results (%)

As of 30 September 2018	Average Annual Total Returns						
	QTD	YTD	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	Inception
<b>Class I EUR</b> —Inception: 18 Oct 2012	<b>4.07</b>	<b>11.29</b>	<b>14.43</b>	<b>15.31</b>	<b>15.06</b>	—	<b>15.48</b>
MSCI All Country World Index (EUR)	4.82	7.34	11.73	11.91	12.04	—	12.07
<b>Class I USD</b> —Inception: 31 May 2013	<b>3.47</b>	<b>7.70</b>	<b>12.42</b>	<b>16.79</b>	<b>11.60</b>	—	<b>11.87</b>
MSCI All Country World Index (USD)	4.28	3.83	9.77	13.40	8.67	—	9.05
<b>Class I GBP</b> —Inception: 26 Feb 2014	<b>4.76</b>	<b>11.58</b>	<b>15.53</b>	<b>22.72</b>	—	—	<b>16.60</b>
MSCI All Country World Index (GBP)	5.57	7.70	12.94	19.20	—	—	13.69
<b>Class A USD</b> —Inception: 01 Dec 2015	<b>3.26</b>	<b>7.05</b>	<b>11.49</b>	—	—	—	<b>12.94</b>
MSCI All Country World Index (USD)	4.28	3.83	9.77	—	—	—	11.18

## Annual Returns (%) 12 months ended 30 September

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Class I EUR</b>	<b>17.21</b>	<b>12.20</b>	<b>18.88</b>	<b>12.71</b>	<b>14.43</b>

Source: Artisan Partners/MSCI. Returns for periods less than one year are not annualized.

**Past performance does not guarantee and is not a reliable indicator of future results.** Performance is NAV to NAV, including reinvestment of dividends and capital gains, if any, and is net of fees and expenses, excluding any subscription or redemption charges which may be levied. At the moment, the Fund does not intend to charge subscription or redemption fees. The Fund may be offered in different share classes, which are subject to different fees, expenses and inception dates (which may affect performance), have different minimum investment requirements and are entitled to different services. An investor cannot invest directly in an index.

**Investment Risks:** Investments will rise and fall with market fluctuations and investor capital is at risk. Investors investing in funds denominated in non-local currency should be aware of the risk of currency exchange fluctuations that may cause a loss of principal. These risks, among others, are further described on the last page, which should be read in conjunction with this material.



### Investing Environment

The themes that have dominated the global economic and market backdrop YTD have remained relatively consistent—Q3 proved no exception. Trade remains top of mind globally, with much focus on the US and its major trade partners, including China, Europe and its NAFTA neighbors. Developed markets defied the uncertainty, though, rising in Q3, led by the US. The UK was notably in the red as Brexit negotiations have proven challenging, rattling nerves about the likelihood the country successfully maintains trade agreements with its Continental brethren. In contrast, emerging markets were in the red in Q3 and trail YTD as well.

Among emerging markets, China was particularly weighed down by ongoing trade concerns. Meanwhile, Turkey, Argentina and other countries whose currencies are particularly exposed to volatility were pressured in Q3, prompting some concern their woes might become a broader contagion. However, to date it seems as though most of the vulnerable countries are taking largely appropriate steps to mitigate what volatility they can. Conversely, Brazil's market bounced in Q3, though it remains negative YTD as the economy remains sluggish and a hotly contested election looms in October.

Against this backdrop, the US Fed raised its benchmark rate 25bps to a range of 2.00%-2.25%—in line with expectations—continuing the divergence among major global central banks. The Bank of England, which faces heightened domestic uncertainty surrounding the country's impending exit from the EU, as well as the ECB, where economies remain relatively less economically robust, have thus far signaled they will remain as accommodative as they believe necessary to avoid unduly pressuring their markets or economies. Meanwhile, the Bank of Japan has shown no indication it will alter its exceedingly accommodative stance anytime soon.

As uncertainties mounted in the quarter, more defensive sectors led—including health care, industrials and telecom. Conversely, utilities and materials were the bottom-performing sectors in US and global markets. From a style and size standpoint, growth led value, as it has YTD, and larger stocks outperformed their smaller counterparts—also a YTD trend.

### Performance Discussion

Our portfolio trailed the MSCI AC World Index in Q3, though we remain ahead YTD. Our energy holdings were the largest source of relative weakness at the sector level. Our consumer discretionary holdings trailed index peers tied to a couple of stock-specific headwinds (including JD.com, which we sold in Q3 and will discuss further). Conversely, our health care and technology holdings were additive in Q3. We have been particularly encouraged by the recent performance of our health care holdings—which for the last several quarters have been pressured in part by concerns about the potential for price regulations (particularly in the US), the Affordable Care Act's future and other issues. As these headlines have mellowed, fundamentals have had a chance to shine through, overall benefiting our holdings.

From a regional standpoint, our emerging markets holdings were notable underperformers in Q3 tied to liquidity, contagion and trade-related concerns. Conversely, our European holdings were

beneficial. On average, our holdings in Europe skew toward high-quality franchises that aren't particularly cyclical and are leaders in their respective industries. Against a backdrop of increasingly scarce economic growth in Europe, we believe investors likely to prefer companies such as Temenos, Lonza and Amadeus IT Group, which are poised to capitalize on various compelling, ongoing secular trends.

Among our bottom individual contributors in Q3 were China holdings JD.com and Tencent, as well as energy company Noble Energy. We initiated our campaign in JD.com, one of China's largest e-tailers, in Q4 2017 as we anticipated it would benefit from the secular trend toward e-commerce—namely, via its strengths in consumer electronics, home appliances and fast-moving consumer goods (low-priced, non-durable packaged goods sold quickly). However, we underappreciated the ferocity with which JD.com's main competitor, Alibaba, would seek to undermine JD.com as a competitive threat. Specifically, Alibaba has increased its focus on the aforementioned goods typically in JD.com's wheelhouse, while simultaneously attempting to undercut JD.com's pricing. We don't anticipate these competitive pressures will abate any time soon. Compounding these challenges were allegations surrounding the company's CEO. Given these headwinds, we exited our position in favor of better opportunities elsewhere.

Shares of Tencent have been pressured as the company awaits government approval to monetize recently launched games. While we believe it to be more a matter of when, not if, we lack visibility into when the approvals will come through. This near-term headwind aside, we believe the company remains well-positioned with its leading payments platform, which has room to grow further and is not yet fully monetized. That monetization process should be helped along by two factors. First, Tencent is in the process of building a new ecosystem of local services (food delivery, payments, ride hailing, etc.). Second, it is developing subscription services around its content (video and music). In the long term, both of these developments should support high user engagement—which should in turn translate into growing recurring revenues.

Shares of Noble Energy have been pressured as rapidly growing production among Permian producers has bumped up against infrastructure bottlenecks—namely, insufficient pipeline capacity. The result has been lower realized prices for Permian priced crude. However, we believe these issues are temporary—more pipeline capacity is being added—and that over the longer term, Noble remains one of the best-positioned Permian producers with additional cash-flow optionality once Leviathan, its Eastern Mediterranean conventional natural gas project, is placed in service in late-2019. With a favorable crude oil backdrop, we believe the outlook and cash-flow optionality for top-tier producers like Noble Energy remain positive.

Among our top Q3 contributors were Visa, Lonza Group and Techtronic Industries. Against an increasingly uncertain macro backdrop, Visa is driving attractive levels of highly predictable, recurring top-line growth and free cash flow. The global secular trend toward digital payments remains some ways from maturity,

and we believe Visa capable of broadening its growth runway as microtransactions gain traction. Microtransactions—small purchases from retailers like Starbucks, McDonald's, etc.—are just beginning to catch on in the US, which we anticipate should translate into meaningful transaction volume growth. While we are monitoring Visa's valuation, we believe the profit cycle remains compelling.

We believe Lonza Group, a leading supplier to the biotechnology, pharmaceutical and specialty ingredients market, is well-positioned to capitalize on an expanding pipeline of biological drugs and a growing interest in applying pharmaceutical technologies to the manufacturing of consumer products with health claims. As drug discovery and development is increasingly done by smaller biotechs, Lonza's geographic reach, scientific know-how and flexibility to manufacture drugs—from the tiniest amounts needed in the early stages of trials all the way to the largest amounts needed in the commercial stage—provide it with a clear competitive advantage to drive attractive growth. Importantly, we believe this is the type of high-quality franchise that is attractive at this stage of the market cycle—it's reasonably valued, while driving attractive levels of growth that are less cyclically exposed or dependent.

Techtronic Industries is a global leader in power tools with well-established and fast-growing brands, including Milwaukee, Ryobi and AEG. Shares bounced back in Q3 after facing YTD headwinds related to the combination of heightened protectionist rhetoric, which many fear could weigh on sales, as well as the company's ongoing investments in product development. Investors also signaled concern that a rate-hike cycle in the US could lead to a US housing-construction slowdown. While these concerns are not unfounded, we believe Techtronic's profit cycle remains intact and that the company is well-positioned to benefit from the secular trend toward cordless power tools—a trend which we find is less exposed than generally believed to the aforementioned concerns. We also believe this trend remains in its relatively early innings—particularly with respect to larger power tools like lawnmowers, leaf-blowers, chainsaws and others—in both the US and Europe. Given these drivers, we added to our position in Q3.

#### Portfolio Activity

We remained active in Q3, acting on volatility where possible to introduce several new Garden<sup>SM</sup> positions, including Worldpay and Activision Blizzard—both high-quality franchises about which we're very enthused. Worldpay is the product of a recent merger between Vantiv and Worldpay. As independent entities, Vantiv was among the leaders in integrated payments for small merchants and was gaining share in the large US retailer vertical; Worldpay was a leader in the e-commerce field. The combined entity results in a marriage which we anticipate will drive meaningful cost and revenue synergies. Early results have been positive: Sales are accelerating as the combined company capitalizes on the respective strengths of the formerly independent entities to cross- and up-sell into their existing client bases. The company's exposure to faster-growing areas of payments as well as ongoing merger-related synergies should allow Worldpay to drive impressive earnings growth over the next few years.

Activision Blizzard is a leading video-game developer with leading franchises including World of Warcraft®, Call of Duty®, Candy Crush® and others. We believe Activision Blizzard's management team is deploying innovative strategies to leverage its library of intellectual property and capitalize on secular shifts in the industry—i.e., the rapid growth of mobile gaming, increased player engagement via live services and the growing popularity of e-sports. We are encouraged by Activision Blizzard's pioneer activity within e-sports in particular—which we believe positions it as the leading player within the rapidly growing market for e-sports entertainment. We capitalized on Q2 weakness to initiate a position in Q3 at what we believe a compelling valuation.

We also added to several holdings in Q3—in addition to Techtronic, we increased our exposure to London Stock Exchange and Umicore. London Stock Exchange (LSE) is an international market infrastructure and capital markets business. Through acquisitions, the company has shifted its focus from traditional, volume-based revenue streams and positioned itself as an information services business and clearinghouse—shifts which expose the company to some of the strongest structural trends in the finance industry, including ETF penetration, OTC clearing and quantitative investing. These trends are producing heavy demand for data analytics, which should result in a meaningful margin opportunity for LSE. Further, LSE has meaningful scale that should position the company well relative to the ongoing digitization of collateral and clearing.

Umicore is a global materials technology company that is on the leading edge of secular trends toward reduced gasoline and diesel engine emissions as well as the emerging electronic vehicle (EV) battery market. We initiated our position in Q2 tied to our thesis that over the next five years (and beyond), EVs will increasingly take share and that a growing number of auto producers will enter the EV market. Umicore is the top global producer of cathode material that goes into lithium ion automotive batteries. While the batteries themselves lack much intellectual property, the materials suppliers into the battery producers do have proprietary IP—and Umicore is a leader among those producers. As we've gained conviction in our thesis, we've added to our Garden<sup>SM</sup> position.

We concluded several longer-term investing campaigns in Q3 whose profit cycles had largely matured, in our view—in this group are Intertek, Bid Corp and James Hardie. We also pared our exposure to State Street and ING—both for company-specific reasons. State Street is facing increasingly stiff competition from JP Morgan. Compounding those challenges, its acquisition of Charles River—a legacy platform—is highly dilutive to earnings. ING has faced slightly different challenges—including higher-than-anticipated spending in its Belgium and Netherlands markets to prepare for a more asset-light, online and branchless strategy. While it has made progress along these lines in its German and French markets, it lacked a sufficient back- or front-office platform in Belgium or the Netherlands. Combined with the ECB's ongoing loose monetary policy, we anticipate some headwinds for ING in coming quarters.

## Portfolio Statistics

As of September 30, 2018, the portfolio had a 3-5 year forecasted weighted average earnings growth rate of 22% and our holdings were selling at a weighted harmonic average P/E (excluding negative earnings) of 25X FY1 earnings and 21X FY2 earnings. The portfolio held 45 companies with 38% of portfolio capital committed to the top 10 holdings and 62% of capital committed to the top 20 positions. The portfolio's weighted average market capitalization was \$98.7 billion.

## Perspective

As we approach the bull market's upcoming 10-year mark, we are witnessing increasing signs of a dual-speed global market. Non-US markets are reflecting the early negative impact of largely US-driven trade pressures—which weigh not only on markets and economies, but on consumer and investor confidence as well. Conversely, as the US economic data have overall and on average remained positive, investor and consumer expectations accordingly remain relatively healthy for now. This divergence naturally leads to questions about whether, when and how global markets realign—with myriad possible outcomes.

While we profess no unique ability to handicap these outcomes, we are watching closely for signs conditions are shifting meaningfully in one direction or another. Ongoing uncertainty aside, we remain pleased with the performance of our Crop<sup>SM</sup> holdings—particularly those which have to date been less impacted by trade woes and for now seem relatively insulated.

Further, we believe several meaningful secular trends remain nicely in motion—and are not particularly dependent on rapid global growth or trade conditions. For example, one trend we've highlighted recently is the ongoing shift toward digital payments, which are seeing rapid uptake globally. This is particularly the case in emerging economies, which in many cases have been able to “skip a step” technologically and financially speaking. We have several high-quality franchises well-positioned relative to this trend—including the aforementioned Visa and Worldpay, but also Pagseguro Digital and others.

Then, too, we also find internal change catalysts to be important drivers, particularly against slowing or mixed macroeconomic backdrops. These companies are often capitalizing on internal changes such as a newly installed management team, a new product cycle, the integration of an acquisition, or others, to drive revenue or profit growth (or, ideally, both) even against a more challenging backdrop. Examples of some of these holdings include Shiseido, Nintendo and Lowe's, among others.

In short, we believe that despite rising uncertainty, there remain interesting investing opportunities globally—with many trading at valuations that still look reasonable to us given the opportunity ahead of them. Regardless of the direction markets take in the coming quarters, we will adhere to our disciplined approach, which over the course of our team's history, has proved sufficiently resilient to withstand a variety of investing environments.

For more information: Visit [www.artisanpartners.com](http://www.artisanpartners.com)

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Further details, including risks, fees and expenses, are set out in the current Prospectus, Supplements and Key Investor Information Documents (KIID), which can be obtained by calling +44 (0) 20 7766 7130 or visiting [www.artisanpartnersglobal.com](http://www.artisanpartnersglobal.com). Read carefully before investing.

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