



Artisan Global Equity Fund

QUARTERLY
Commentary

Artisan Partners Global Funds plc

As of 31 March 2021

For Institutional Investors – Not for Onward Distribution

Investment Process

We seek to invest in companies, within our preferred themes, with sustainable growth characteristics at attractive valuations that do not fully reflect their long-term potential.

Themes

We identify long-term secular growth trends with the objective of investing in companies that have meaningful exposure to these trends. Our fundamental analysis focuses on those industry leaders with attractive growth and valuation characteristics that will be long-term beneficiaries of any structural change and/or trend.

Sustainable Growth

We apply a fundamental approach to identifying the long-term, sustainable growth characteristics of potential investments. We seek high-quality companies that typically have a sustainable competitive advantage, a superior business model and a high-quality management team.

Valuation

We use multiple valuation metrics to establish a target price range. We assess the relationship between our estimate of a company's sustainable growth prospects and its current valuation.

Team Overview

Our team approach combines the benefits of strong leadership with the creative ideas of a deep and highly experienced team of research analysts. We believe this approach allows us to leverage a broad set of perspectives into dynamic portfolios.

Portfolio Management



Mark L. Yockey, CFA
Portfolio Manager



Charles-Henri Hamker
Portfolio Manager



Andrew J. Euretig
Portfolio Manager

Investment Results (%)

As of 31 March 2021	Average Annual Total Returns						
	QTD	YTD	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	Inception
Class I USD—Inception: 07 Aug 2012	-1.03	-1.03	52.99	16.70	17.51	—	13.86
MSCI All Country World Index (USD)	4.57	4.57	54.60	12.07	13.21	—	11.05
Class I GBP—Inception: 08 Feb 2016	-1.83	-1.83	37.83	17.38	18.47	—	20.20
MSCI All Country World Index (GBP)	3.61	3.61	38.94	12.70	14.14	—	16.02

Annual Returns (%) 12 months ended 31 March

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Class I USD	10.87	27.17	6.41	-2.38	52.99

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

In Q1, markets rallied on positive news regarding the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines and the resulting optimism about an economic recovery and a return to normal in 2021. The biggest beneficiary of the improved growth outlook were cyclicals, with returns in the MSCI AC World Index led by energy and financials—two of 2020's weakest performing sectors. Conversely, defensives—the consumer staples, utilities and health care sectors—trailed. Regionally, developed markets edged emerging markets, with the US outpacing Europe and Japan.

Markets in recent months have been preoccupied by the prospect of reflation owing to aggressive fiscal stimulus, a Federal Reserve that is willing to let the US economy run hot and a potential return to more normal consumer spending habits as the economy reopens. These factors drove increased inflation expectations, normalizing bond yields, and a continuation of the pro-cyclical rotation that began in Q4 2020. Notably, the US 10-year Treasury bond yield jumped to 174bps from 91bps at year end and from 68bps at the end of September 2020. And the MSCI AC World Value Index outpaced its growth counterpart by the most in 20 years.

Over the course of our team's 25+ years of investing, we've experienced these types of rotations several times—most recently in 2016 and before that were the periods coming out of the global financial crisis and the early 2000s recession. Rather than get caught up in debates about growth versus value or inflation versus deflation, we see our job as identifying companies with sustainable growth drivers by assessing the strength of their business models, competitive positions and management teams, and purchasing them at reasonable valuations. Instead of endeavoring to forecast inflation, which is not our skillset, we seek to create a portfolio resilient to inflationary forces. We accomplish this by investing in businesses that have strong pricing power. Factors driving strong pricing power include a unique solution, a strong and/or low-cost market position, product differentiation and customer relationships. In our view, if return on capital is high, there is a cushion for increased production and capital costs. Furthermore, the business should find itself fundamentally protected from inflation over the long term.

Though most media attention has focused on US policies and their seeming impact on global equities, policy approaches have varied in different parts of the world. In contrast to the Fed, China's central bank has asked lenders to rein in credit supply amid concerns about asset bubbles and financial stability. Likewise, Brazil became the first major economy to raise rates this year. Russia and Turkey have also raised rates, and Canada recently ended emergency liquidity programs implemented during the pandemic. The economic reopening narrative is also becoming complicated by variant strains of the virus and contrasting vaccination rates around the world. The EU's rollout, for instance, due to a series of missteps and delays has meaningfully lagged those in the US, UK and many other developed countries. Additionally, some countries, like Brazil and India, have seen huge upticks in case counts in recent weeks.

Performance Discussion

Given the sharp rotation from growth to value, the portfolio underperformed the MSCI AC World Index in Q1. We had been pleasantly surprised to keep pace with the market in Q4 2020 as that marked the beginning of the sharp rotation into cyclical stocks, with energy and financials leading the way. We were not exposed to those areas—and yet, thanks to continued strong performance from larger holdings such as Halozyne Therapeutics and a number of software holdings, the portfolio more or less matched the benchmark return. In Q1, our lighter weighting in financials, particularly banks, and outsized exposure to the health care sector, were headwinds.

Our weakest Q1 contributors were ACADIA Pharmaceuticals and CM.com. ACADIA's shares fell sharply when the FDA communicated deficiencies in the company's label expansion application of Nuplazid® for dementia-related psychosis. Based on past instances when the FDA provided the same language to other applicants, eventual drug approval occurred in about half the cases. Our base case is the company will need to run an additional trial, and potential approval is pushed out, eating into the patent life of the product. We are reworking our forecasts for the company and reappraising the investment thesis.

CM.com is a Netherlands-based provider of CPaaS (communication platform as a service), one of the world's fastest growing software categories. CM.com's software lets developers easily add mobile-based messaging and phone/voice functionality to their applications. The stock pulled back following robust gains in 2020. We see revenue growth accelerating as the company pursues this large untapped market opportunity, utilizing its February 2020 IPO proceeds to triple its sales and marketing headcount by 2022 and accelerate its international expansion.

It is understandable that these higher-valued companies, even those such as CM.com with strong accompanying growth prospects, should see their share prices come under pressure when bond yields rise. Higher bond yields—and therefore higher discount rates—lower the net present value of future earnings. However, where we remain positive on the long-term prospects for these businesses and identify reasonable relative value, we continue to hold.

An additional laggard was Ascendis Pharma, a Danish biopharmaceuticals company. Ascendis utilizes its TransCon™ technology to develop drugs that provide for the predictable and sustained release of an unmodified parent drug, thereby improving the drug's effect on patients. Since this technology is applied to proven drug targets, development risk is lower compared to other biotech companies. Our interest is focused on its de-risked pipeline candidates, including for pediatric growth hormone deficiency and hypoparathyroidism. Shares may have been weak due to nervousness ahead of the FDA's decision, expected in June, on its growth hormone drug, though we believe there is a high probability of approval.

Johnson Controls, Alphabet and Aixtron were among our top contributors. Johnson Controls is an operator in the building services market, providing building controls, HVAC systems, fire and safety, and power solutions. In a post-pandemic world, we believe new air quality standards and demand for touchless technologies will drive a new investment cycle in renovating existing commercial office buildings. Johnson Controls estimates this market opportunity is likely between \$10 billion and \$15 billion and growing double-digits over the next five years. In addition, Johnson Controls' solutions for enhancing buildings' energy efficiency and sustainability should see greater demand as government regulations and stimulus plans increasingly address the sources of climate change.

Alphabet is the parent company of Google, the world's leading Internet search engine and among the largest players in digital advertising. A broad-based recovery in advertising spend drove 23% Y/Y revenue growth, with strong contributions from its search, YouTube and cloud businesses.

Aixtron engineers and manufactures metal organic chemical vapor deposition equipment for the semiconductor industry. Customers use its equipment to produce compound semiconductor layer structures for use in LED, laser, solar cell, transistor, telecommunications and other applications. The adoption of gallium nitride, a replacement for silicon in semiconductors, is needed for energy efficiency and fast charging of smartphones, laptops and electric vehicles, and Aixtron dominates the equipment market that enables this production technology.

Positioning

Our most notable alteration to the portfolio in Q1 was the addition of select financials companies. We had previously exited several financials holdings in Q2 2020. For banks, our concern was that as GDP plummeted, credit deterioration would develop for corporates, increasing banks' loss provisions and impacting net income. For insurers, we were focused on the potential for pandemic-related losses such as event cancellations and business interruption claims, which did materialize. Regulators suspended buybacks and dividend payouts on capital concerns. A year later, the environment has changed. US GDP is expected to grow between 6%-7% in 2021, yields are increasing and a line in the sand has been drawn under COVID-19 claims, with insurance policies being written with pandemic clauses to limit losses. Insurers are also benefiting from rising property & casualty (P&C) rates due to the significant losses in 2020 and previous years.

BNP Paribas, one of the world's largest diversified banks, was among our new financials positions. We believe BNP should benefit from interest rate normalization as nominal economic growth in the EU recovers, as well as from declines in loan-loss provisioning following increased provisioning in 2020 driven by model losses amid the pandemic. Despite the YTD share price gains, the stock appears attractively valued for this point in the economic cycle, selling for approximately 0.7X tangible book value.

We also added Allianz, a global multiline insurer that has exposure to both P&C and life insurance. Both segments are levered to rising

rates—the P&C segment to rising P&C rates and the life insurance segment to rising interest rates. Management has shown itself to be one of the more disciplined allocators of capital in its industry, choosing primarily bolt-on acquisitions and share buybacks. Finally, shares trade at a very reasonable P/E of 10X 2022 expected earnings.

Aside from financials, we initiated new positions in Booking Holdings, Altair Engineering and AtriCure.

- Booking Holdings is an online travel operator offering services through the following brands: Booking.com, KAYAK, priceline, agoda, Rentalcars.com and OpenTable. We believe Booking is placed to capitalize on lockdowns being eased and a recovery in travel. Among online travel agents, Booking.com is particularly exposed to lodging or accommodation as opposed to flights. Accommodation, especially in Europe where Booking.com is most represented, is a fragmented business with many independent operators. These characteristics provide Booking.com with an attractive opportunity, which is reflected in the higher take rate, or commission, it earns for its service. We're also attracted to the secular tailwinds in the online travel industry. Global travel spend growth is linked to growth in the middle class, and online travel continues growing faster than its offline counterpart.
- Altair Engineering is a US-based provider of computer-aided engineering (CAE)—simulation software used in product design for various industries, including autos, aerospace, electronics, industrial equipment and medical devices. We believe Altair will continue taking market share by leveraging its leadership and strategic foothold in the pre-processing/meshing industry sub-segment to expand into solvers, as well as due to its greater exposure to faster growth market segments. Additionally, core end-markets like autos are rebounding, while the shift to electric vehicles presents further long-term opportunity for CAE applications.
- AtriCure is a developer of surgical ablation systems of cardiac tissue. We anticipate the approval of the company's Convergent procedure for treating long-standing atrial fibrillation—a multibillion-dollar US market with approximately 3.6 million US patients. Data showing superior effectiveness of the Convergent procedure versus Catheter ablation—the conventional treatment for atrial fibrillation today—suggest a long-term opportunity as this procedure takes share and drives higher penetration among untreated patients.

We also added to our existing position in CRH, a global building materials producer, which is among our infrastructure theme holdings. We first purchased CRH in Q4 2020, prior to the announced \$2 trillion US infrastructure plan as we anticipated the likelihood for increased infrastructure spending under a Biden administration. We also like the company's history of strong free cash flow generation and disciplined capital allocation focused on maintaining its dividend. Lastly, CRH is well-positioned, in our view,

to expand margins as global growth recovers and as it rationalizes its cost base.

Our Q1 sales were primarily on valuations grounds. We exited Illumina, a health care company involved in genomics, Acceleron Pharma, a biopharmaceutical company engaged in the treatment of serious and rare diseases, and Workiva, a cloud software provider, as shares approached our target valuations. We also sold Fidelity National Information Services, a payment processing and banking software provider, in favor of better opportunities in the payments space.

Outlook

We are disappointed in our recent results; however, we are not surprised given the strength of performance among deep-value stocks. Previous periods of underperformance and subsequent recoveries in our 25 years of investing and 11 years managing the global portfolio have reinforced the importance of adhering to our disciplined process. We believe that by investing in good quality companies with sustainable growth drivers and being disciplined about valuation, we will deliver value-added results over the long term.

Recognizing that certain extremely weak segments of the economy will recover sooner than expected, we added a few more economically sensitive stocks to our portfolio in Q1. We've also sought companies positioned to benefit from both cyclical and secular tailwinds. Examples include Altair Engineering and the increasing role and applications for simulation software in varied industries, including electric vehicles, Booking Holdings and the long runway for growth we see in online travel, and CRH's multiyear opportunity for increased infrastructure spending. Other notable long-term themes expressed in the portfolio include energy efficiency and renewable power within our environmental theme; Internet platforms, next-generation semiconductors and SaaS within our technology theme; 5G and cloud infrastructure within our infrastructure theme; and advances in biotechnology and life sciences tools within our demographics theme. As always, we seek to invest in companies within our preferred themes with sustainable growth characteristics at attractive valuations that do not reflect their long-term potential.

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

This summary represents the views of the portfolio managers as of 31 Mar 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 comprise the following percentages of the Fund's total net assets as of 31 Mar 2021: Halozyme Therapeutics Inc 3.8%; ACADIA Pharmaceuticals Inc 1.3%; CM.com NV 1.5%; Ascendis Pharma A/S 1.0%; Johnson Controls International PLC 3.1%; Alphabet Inc 2.6%; AIXTRON SE 1.7%; BNP Paribas SA 0.8%; Allianz SE 2.5%; Booking Holdings Inc 2.8%; Altair Engineering Inc 1.3%; AtriCure Inc 1.4%; CRH PLC 1.6%. 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.

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