Artisan Global Equity Fund

QUARTERLY
Commentary

Artisan Partners Global Funds plc

As of 31 March 2022

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 2022	QTD	YTD	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	Inception
			Average Annual Total Returns				
Class I USD—Inception: 07 Aug 2012	**-14.36**	**-14.36**	**-8.92**	**10.80**	**12.98**	**—**	**11.26**
MSCI All Country World Index (USD)	-5.36	-5.36	7.28	13.75	11.64	—	10.65
Class I GBP—Inception: 08 Feb 2016	**-11.79**	**-11.79**	**-4.43**	**10.47**	**11.92**	**—**	**15.80**
MSCI All Country World Index (GBP)	-2.64	-2.64	12.42	13.36	10.50	—	15.43

Annual Returns (%) 12 months ended 31 March

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Class I USD	**27.17**	**6.41**	**-2.38**	**52.99**	**-8.92**

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

Past performance does not predict future returns. 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. Funds are actively managed and are not managed to a benchmark 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.

Performance commentary is provided in relation to the Fund's USD share class.

Investing Environment

The start of a central bank tightening cycle amid multi-decade-high inflation and the advent of the Russia-Ukraine war—Europe's worst conflict since World War II—caused global equities to decline in Q1. As Russia is one of the largest energy producers and Ukraine is a major source of global food supply, the war has only intensified existing inflationary impulses brought on by pandemic-related supply disruptions and pro-growth government policies. The MSCI AC World Index returned -5.36% in Q1—its worst quarter since Q1 2020 when the pandemic began and third worst in the past five years. All sectors aside from energy, materials and utilities finished down. The technology, consumer discretionary and communication services sectors were weakest. Regionally, returns were negative across nearly all major markets; large commodities-producing countries like Canada, Australia and Norway were exceptions.

The steep rise in inflation globally risks undercutting what has been a strong recovery since 2020. In addition to higher raw materials prices, tight labor markets are driving the fastest wage gains in a generation. Inflation that began in the goods sector due to supply-chain disruptions has broadened to services. More than two years into the pandemic, inflation has not proven transitory. Consequently, the Federal Reserve and other major central banks now find themselves, in their own words, "behind the curve" in their fight against inflation. In Q1, the Fed began monetary policy tightening; it raised its benchmark rate for the first time since 2018 with a 25bps increase. However, it has much further to go with multiple 50bps hikes expected in addition to quantitative tightening—signaling its intention to shrink its balance sheet by up to $95 billion per month. Fears of higher interest rates and reduced liquidity due to tighter monetary policies were a hindrance for risk assets generally. The attendant adjustments to discount rates applied to future earnings resulted in steep declines among longer duration, higher multiple growth stocks—most evident in the extreme divergence in returns by style. The MSCI AC World Growth Index fell nearly 10% compared to the MSCI AC World Value Index's 1% decline.

While many of us have resumed some semblance of "normal" living—returning to the office, attending sporting events or eating out—the pandemic has not ended. That is, COVID-19 has not yet become endemic, a term epidemiologists use to describe a disease in which overall infection rates in a population are static and predictable. Case counts have been receding globally after the omicron-variant wave peaked in January, but it's not clear whether this trend will continue, nor how much of the improvement has been due to vaccinations, seasonality, mutations in the virus, herd immunity or other factors. What we do know is COVID continues to be highly disruptive to supply chains, particularly in China where the government's zero-COVID policy has resulted in severe lockdowns in its largest cities. This means more idle factories and clogged ports.

Unpredictable supply chains, whether due to COVID or geopolitics, have much of the world reconsidering globalization. Russia's invasion of Ukraine and China's repeated threats against Taiwan have made clear globalization's hidden risks. Regarding the former, European climate policy has contributed to the bloc's dependence on Russia for energy. For the latter, the desire to control costs has led to technology supply chains' reliance on a few suppliers of semiconductors that have access to both high-skilled and low-cost labor. These geopolitical considerations have the potential to reverberate for years to come, but we are already seeing their effects, as in the new deal struck between the US and Europe to increase US exports of liquid natural gas (LNG) and plans for reshoring semiconductor manufacturing.

Performance Discussion

Our portfolio meaningfully underperformed the MSCI AC World Index in Q1 as the confluence of macro and market drivers discussed above overwhelmed company-specific fundamentals. First, our bias toward growth businesses was a headwind given the large performance swing in favor of value stocks. Our weakest individual performers included a few of our top contributors of 2021—companies such as heating technology company NIBE Industrier, buildings solutions company Johnson Controls and digital infrastructure provider Vertiv Holdings—that continue to grow earnings well. In our view, their recent share price declines were less about business results and more about the rotation away from the prior winners.

Second, the invasion of Ukraine and the resultant sanctions on Russia caused the stock prices of our two Russian holdings—Russia's largest bank Sberbank and metals and mining company Norilsk Nickel—to collapse. With trading suspended in the ADRs of both Russian companies, we chose to price both positions to zero, although we firmly believe both companies have value. Losses from these two positions alone accounted for about -350bps of our portfolio's Q1 return.

Sberbank was bought in 2021 as a beneficiary of higher inflation and growth in the domestic Russian economy. At the time of purchase, it was among the largest and fastest growing banks in Europe. Loan growth was over 15%, powered by retail loans growing at over 20% and corporate loans at over 10%, while deposits were also growing at double-digit rates. Profitability was strong and was reflected in a 23% return on equity in 2021. Net interest margins were over 5%, while the valuation was very attractive at 0.9X price/book value and a 4.8X P/E multiple. Prior to the invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent sanctions, Sberbank was very attractively valued given the expected growth in its core business while also benefiting from higher inflation and energy costs that benefit the Russian economy. As Sberbank now represents 0.0% of the portfolio, it is therefore more of an option on the company's survival, and we are inclined to think it will survive.

Norilsk is the world's largest producer of nickel (12% of global supply, 25% of battery grade nickel) and palladium (40% of global supply). To add range to an electric vehicle battery, you need to add nickel, and after the diesel scandal in Europe, palladium has substituted for platinum as an auto catalyst. In our view, it is unlikely that Norilsk will be sanctioned as 60% of all auto catalysts sourced by Ford and GM come from Norilsk. Also, over 30% of their nickel comes from Norilsk. That number is even higher for European auto makers. The consequences of sanctions on both the US and EU auto industry would be very severe. Nonetheless, we cannot ignore

the cloud of uncertainty which will inevitably hang over the shares going forward.

Other big decliners were Natera and Deutsche Post. Natera is a genetic testing company. Investment research firm Hindenburg Research, which has a short on the stock, released a report alleging that Natera used deceptive sales and billing practices, causing Natera's stock price to halve. We've looked closely at each of the report's allegations and find the overall report to be misleading. Even in our bear case scenario which allows for a negative ruling and a fine by the US Justice Department, we believe that with the company having lost about $1.3 billion in value, the share price weakness looks to be severely overdone. Natera has historically focused on the early detection of genetic conditions within reproductive health, but its opportunity in the oncology market is what most interests us. Signatera is the first-to-market liquid biopsy test that looks for cancer DNA in the blood of previously diagnosed patients, providing detection of recurrence about nine months earlier than CT scans. Medicare covers Signatera for stage 2 and 3 colorectal cancer, but central to our investment thesis is Signatera receiving additional Medicare coverage, including for immuno-oncology response monitoring, stage 4 colorectal cancer, multiple myeloma and metastatic breast cancer, among other cancers. The company expects this to occur by the end of 2022. We believe Signatera is a $15 billion market opportunity.

Deutsche Post (DP) offers domestic mail delivery, international parcel services and freight delivery, as well as logistics services. The stock suffered from the Russia-Ukraine news, concerns about inflationary pressures and slowing growth after the pandemic-induced consumer goods boom. As operating results have benefited from surging e-commerce volumes and the company's continued ability to enact regular price increases, the stock price is now selling as cheaply as it was at the March 2020 lows at about 10X earnings. While the pandemic-driven e-commerce surge is unlikely to repeat, demand for shipping and logistics services has never been greater. We also look for the company to benefit from favorable secular and cyclical tailwinds. E-commerce remains a structural demand driver, and the company's strong market position within an oligopoly supports its continued pricing power. These factors should remain even after the pandemic ends. Cyclically, the disruptions throughout the container ship supply chain look likely to continue for some time, contributing to strong demand for air freight and DP's DHL freight forwarding business.

On the positive side, our top individual contributor was EQT, a stock we purchased in Q1. EQT is the largest natural gas producer in the US, operating in the Marcellus and Utica Shales of the Appalachian Basin. The world (led by Europe) is on a mission to replace fossil fuels with a renewables-only strategy investing around $400 billion per annum that is only enough to decrease 6-7bmt of coal CO2 emissions; however, for a renewables-only strategy to be successful, investment would need to at least double from current levels. A renewables-only approach to achieving climate goals also carries with it geopolitical risks as evidenced by Europe's current reliance on Russia for power. Shifting from coal, the largest source of carbon emissions, to gas can not only help with reducing emissions but also help diversify Europe's energy needs. Coal-to-gas switching demand could be met by the US, and we estimate the US could replace one-third of international coal on its own in the next 20 years through targeted investment in rig capacity, pipeline infrastructure and LNG terminals. EQT is in a prime position to export to Europe as the Appalachian to East Coast pipeline is already 95% complete and scheduled for completion in Summer 2022. In addition, EQT gas is one of the least emissions-intensive of all natural gas sources globally.

Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) was another top performer this quarter. CP is a company we've known for a long time as an investor. A holding in our infrastructure theme, CP is a dominant trans-Canadian railroad that benefits from increased infrastructure spending in North America. A key component of our investment thesis for CP is its physical railroad network, a unique and hard-to-duplicate asset. We believe companies which possess unique assets are often able to leverage a dominant market position, high barriers to entry and pricing power, all of which lay a solid foundation for sustainable growth and are especially desirable in today's inflationary environment. Additionally, the recent rise in commodity prices may drive stronger railroad volumes of key commodities, including grain, fertilizers and crude oil.

Positioning

In our 25+ years at Artisan, we've experienced these types of periods before when the macro seems to overwhelm the micro. This first quarter was one such period. After the past quarter, we feel it might be helpful to look back at prior periods when our investment approach was similarly out of step with market moves. They say history doesn't repeat itself, but it rhymes. Though the specifics may be different today, the effect of macro shifts and sharp market rotations reminds us of our challenges during the 2016 calendar year when our portfolio similarly suffered a large relative performance shortfall. In 2016, our bottom-up search for sustainable growth contributed to outsized weightings in defensive sectors (e.g., health care, consumer staples), which proved a headwind as sentiment improved and interest rates moved sharply higher. We also missed out on some of the stronger performing areas of the market as we had little exposure to cyclical commodities (i.e., energy, metals and mining). Rather than dig in our heels, which investors can sometimes do when markets move against them, we instead repositioned our portfolio for what we believed was the next wave of growth, and that willingness to reconsider our views and pivot ultimately proved beneficial, contributing to strong alpha generation in each of the subsequent three years.

Like 2016, we believe there are real changes to the investing environment that in the current instance merit rethinking our long-held stance on commodity producers. Our process has generally led us away from cyclical commodity companies that are largely dependent on forces outside of company control. By contrast, we seek high value-added companies that can innovate, command higher pricing power or provide a unique solution. However, over the past few months, we've made notable investments in the energy sector, initiating new positions in EQT, discussed previously, Shell and Schlumberger. The Russia-Ukraine war has highlighted

Europe's energy dependence as it transitions to a cleaner energy future. The world needs "clean producers"—energy majors like Shell extracting, refining and retailing hydrocarbons. LNG is the cleanest fossil fuel and can be an important bridge fuel as the renewables sector grows. The bold plans announced by Germany are hugely supportive to Shell's future as the largest listed LNG player in the world. The strong oil price backdrop adds to the compelling value creation story.

Schlumberger is the world's largest oilfield services and equipment company. Schlumberger's primary business is providing technology and information solutions to customers in the oil and gas industry that optimize reservoir performance. It is the company's technological leadership within the industry that has contributed to its consistent strong cash generation and attracted us to the long-term opportunity for value creation. We also like that the services business is relatively resilient to inflation and less dependent on commodity prices, though we appreciate that current strong supply/demand fundamentals underpin an attractive multi-year outlook for spending by its E&P customers.

These additions contributed to our energy sector weighting increasing to 11% as of quarter end—the highest figure ever for this portfolio. These purchases were financed in part from sales of select technology and health care holdings. Examples were software holdings NICE, CM.com, Synopsys and Splunk; and life sciences companies ICON and Thermo Fisher Scientific.

Outlook

While top-line growth trends remain favorable, we are keeping a close eye on rising input costs in many areas of the economy. In an inflationary environment, we expect that shares of companies that are unable to maintain margins will be particularly penalized. Our long-standing interest in businesses that have dominant market positions, operate in consolidated industries, possess unique assets and provide differentiated solutions, helps us identify companies with pricing power—a critical attribute to have in the current environment. While we have adjusted our exposures as a result of the current macro environment, our investment philosophy has not changed. We remain committed to our investment process focused on identifying companies possessing sustainable growth characteristics exposed to secular growth themes, selling at reasonable valuations. We continue to believe that innovative companies with exposure to powerful secular trends tend to grow earnings faster and can sustain earnings growth longer than the average company.

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Current and future portfolio holdings are subject to risk. 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. Investments will rise and fall with market fluctuations and investor capital is at risk. The costs associated with this fund will impact your return over time. These risks, among others, are further described in the Fund Documents.

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 United Arab Emirates (Non-DIFC): This material does not constitute, and is not intended to constitute, a public offer of securities in the United Arab Emirates and accordingly should not be construed as such. The shares are only being offered to a limited number of exempt investors in the UAE who fall under one of the following categories of non-natural qualified investors: (1) an investor which is able to manage its investments on its own, namely: (a) the federal government, local governments, government entities and authorities or companies wholly-owned by any such entities; (b) international entities and organisations; or (c) a person licensed to carry out a commercial activity in the UAE, provided that investment is one of the objects of such person; or (2) an investor who is represented by an investment manager licensed by the SCA. The shares have not been approved by or licensed or registered with the UAE Central Bank, the Securities and Commodities Authority, the Dubai Financial Services Authority, the Financial Services Regulatory Authority or any other relevant licensing authorities or governmental agencies in the UAE.