



# Artisan Global Opportunities Fund

QUARTERLY  
Commentary

Artisan Partners Global Funds plc

As of 30 September 2023

For Institutional Investors – 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 also assess key environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues that could impact future stock returns. 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 Hamel, CFA  
Portfolio Manager (Lead)



Jason White, CFA  
Portfolio Manager



Matthew Kamm, CFA  
Portfolio Manager



Craig Cepukenas, CFA  
Portfolio Manager



Jay Warner, CFA  
Portfolio Manager

## Investment Results (%)

As of 30 September 2023	Average Annual Total Returns						
	QTD	YTD	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	Inception
<b>Class I EUR—Inception: 18 Oct 2012</b>	<b>-2.38</b>	<b>10.39</b>	<b>6.72</b>	<b>2.05</b>	<b>8.88</b>	<b>11.92</b>	<b>12.42</b>
MSCI All Country World Index (EUR)	-0.46	10.94	11.78	10.60	8.45	10.23	10.40
<b>Class I USD—Inception: 31 May 2013</b>	<b>-5.41</b>	<b>8.99</b>	<b>15.13</b>	<b>-1.41</b>	<b>6.85</b>	<b>9.20</b>	<b>9.41</b>
MSCI All Country World Index (USD)	-3.40	10.06	20.80	6.89	6.46	7.56	7.79
<b>Class I GBP—Inception: 26 Feb 2014</b>	<b>-1.57</b>	<b>8.00</b>	<b>5.35</b>	<b>0.45</b>	<b>8.28</b>	—	<b>12.18</b>
MSCI All Country World Index (GBP)	0.62	8.47	10.48	8.96	7.88	—	10.62
<b>Class A USD—Inception: 01 Dec 2015</b>	<b>-5.65</b>	<b>8.31</b>	<b>14.16</b>	<b>-2.24</b>	<b>5.95</b>	—	<b>8.43</b>
MSCI All Country World Index (USD)	-3.40	10.06	20.80	6.89	6.46	—	8.14
<b>Class I NOK (Hedged)—Inception: 14 Jul 2020</b>	<b>-5.88</b>	<b>7.32</b>	<b>12.13</b>	<b>-3.40</b>	—	—	<b>-0.32</b>
MSCI All Country World Index (NOK)	-4.06	18.88	17.96	11.58	—	—	12.08
<b>Class I EUR Distributing—Inception: 09 May 2023</b>	<b>-2.38</b>	—	—	—	—	—	<b>4.34</b>
MSCI All Country World Index (EUR)	-0.46	—	—	—	—	—	5.18
<b>Annual Returns (%) 12 months ended 30 September</b>							
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		
<b>Class I EUR</b>	<b>11.72</b>	<b>28.85</b>	<b>21.59</b>	<b>-18.10</b>	<b>6.72</b>		

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

Investors entered Q3 increasingly hopeful that the Fed was orchestrating a soft landing for the economy, thanks in large part to falling inflation and resilient economic data, such as a healthy job market and consumer spending. However, hope wavered in Q3 as the 10-year Treasury yield surged after the Fed reiterated its higher for longer stance.

Overall, inflation remained on a downward, albeit noisy, trend in the quarter. August did show an uptick in numbers; however, much of the increase was due to rising gasoline costs. The Fed raised its benchmark federal funds rate by 25bps in July to a target range of 5.25%–5.50%, then held rates steady at its September meeting. Even though inflation showed signs of slowing, the Fed dashed expectations of a quick pivot to rate cuts in 2024. Instead, it indicated its determination to keep interest rates elevated for an extended period of time, which sent longer term yields soaring. The 10-year Treasury yield rose 76bps in Q3 and ended the quarter at 4.57%, a level not seen since 2007. The 30-year Treasury yield surged 85bps in Q3 and ended the quarter at 4.70%, a level not seen since 2011. Rising Treasury yields led the dollar to strengthen against most major currencies.

The Russell 1000® Index declined in the final two months in Q3, which led to its first quarterly decline since Q3 2022. Smaller cap companies underperformed as the Russell Midcap® Index and the Russell 2000® Index both underperformed the Russell 3000® Index. From a sector perspective, energy was the clear top performer. US West Texas Intermediate crude oil rose above \$90 per barrel in September for the first time since November 2022, as both Saudi Arabia and Russia extended supply cuts.

Elsewhere in the world, the narrative was largely the same. Euro zone shares fell in Q3 amid worries that elevated interest rates will damage Europe's economy. However, data released at the end of the quarter showed euro zone inflation slowed to a two-year low of 4.3% year over year in September, down from 5.2% in August, which could pave the way for the ECB to put an end to interest rate hikes.

The MSCI Emerging Markets Index also ended Q3 in negative territory. In China, economic indicators pointed to a lackluster economic recovery, property sector problems resurfaced, and policy stimulus to address these issues remained limited.

### Exhibit 1: Q3 Index Returns

	Q3 2023
Russell 1000® Index	-3.1%
Russell 1000® Growth Index	-3.1%
Russell 1000® Value Index	-3.2%
Russell Midcap® Index	-4.7%
Russell Midcap® Growth Index	-5.2%
Russell Midcap® Value Index	-4.5%
Russell 2000® Index	-5.1%
Russell 2000® Growth Index	-7.3%
Russell 2000® Value Index	-3.0%
MSCI EAFE Index	-1.2%
MSCI AC World Small Cap Index	-3.2%
MSCI EM Index	-1.3%
MSCI ACWI	-2.4%
Brent Crude Oil	28.7%
US Dollar Index	3.2%

Source: Artisan Partners/FactSet/MSCI/Russell. As of 30 Sep 2023. Past performance does not guarantee and is not a reliable indicator of future results.

### Performance Discussion

Our portfolio trailed the MSCI AC World Index in Q3. Underperformance was driven by both allocation and security selection. From a sector perspective, the portfolio's allocation headwind was driven by its underweight to energy, which was the best performing sector in the index as production cuts by Saudi Arabia and Russia drove oil prices higher. Negative security selection was driven by underperformance within financials and industrials. This was partially offset, however, by outperformance within health care and information technology.

Within the index, the health care sector's positive return masked significant volatility at the industry level. Specifically, the health care equipment and supplies industry was one of the worst performers within the index while biotechnology was one of the best. We believe medical device stocks sold off on fears that rapid adoption of GLP-1 obesity medications will lead to declining incidences of comorbidities such as diabetes, cardiac disease, sleep apnea and osteoarthritis. While some of our health care holdings were exposed to this headwind, our positive security selection was driven by positive R&D pipeline news from several biotech holdings, in particular Argenx, and our direct exposure to GLP-1 medications through Novo Nordisk (both discussed later on).

Among our top detractors were Lonza, Adyen and Keyence. Lonza is one of the largest manufacturers and producers of active pharmaceutical ingredients for biologic and small molecule drugs, as well as cell and gene therapies for the pharmaceutical and biotech industries. Drug development is complex, and contract development organizations (CDMOs) such as Lonza allow pharmaceutical and biotech companies to outsource their drug development and manufacturing needs. This provides several benefits, including reducing or eliminating infrastructure costs, providing access to additional expertise and enabling pharma and biotech companies to rapidly scale capacity. The company's earnings results missed investor expectations, and management lowered its guidance, which we attribute to early stage biotech funding weakness, elevated COVID-19 related inventories and underperformance in its capsules and health ingredients division due to lower-than-expected demand for nutraceuticals. The company subsequently announced an abrupt departure of its CEO, prompting shares to sell off. We are evaluating the management change, but we believe the company's financial headwinds are largely temporary as its exposure to commercial assets and a robust pipeline of biologic therapies will likely drive strong growth over the coming years. With the stock trading at an attractive discount to our private market value (PMV), we have remained invested.

Adyen is a payment company providing merchants with a single platform to accept e-commerce, mobile and point-of-sale payments in multiple countries. The company reported slower revenue growth due to aggressively lower pricing in North America by platforms such as PayPal. While we were aware that the payments industry is highly competitive, Adyen's results caught us by surprise as we thought its singular technology stack and global scale made it a low-cost provider. Perhaps more troubling for its long-term outlook is evidence that clients seem to be prioritizing transaction cost over product functionality, which may highlight product commoditization. Given the uncertainty around competitive intensity and pricing pressure, we exited our position.

Keyence is a leading global supplier of products used to improve quality control and production efficiency. The company's products include laser and 2D measurement sensors, imaging systems and laser markers. Use cases include automating inspections with accuracy and speeds well beyond the limitations of humans and ensuring delivery of safe, reliable products that include identification of when, where and by whom products were manufactured. The company serves customers in various end markets, including automotive, metals/machining, semiconductor/electronics, food, and pharmaceuticals. We believe Keyence is well positioned to capitalize on manufacturers' widespread adoption of automation to improve quality and productivity. In our view, the trend could intensify amid the labor shortages in many developed and emerging economies. Shares have underperformed since the company reported financial results that lagged expectations. We believe the results were due to economic weakness in China and increased investments to drive expansion efforts outside its home country of Japan. While these issues are causing short-term growth and margin pressure, we hold a brighter longer term view. China's automation trend is alive and

well, and the company has a meaningful opportunity to drive growth within the Americas. We have remained invested.

Among our top contributors were Novo Nordisk, Argenx and Intuit. Novo Nordisk has leading positions in diabetes and obesity, and it has consistently innovated in these areas. While the diabetes business should continue delivering solid growth, our core investment thesis is centered around the company's entering a big profit cycle driven by its GLP-1 drugs, namely its Wegovy® offering. Wegovy® is an injectable prescription weight loss medication that may be a safer alternative to bariatric surgery. Already commercially approved, Wegovy® has great potential given the addressable market size and the recurring revenue nature of the medication as it must be taken regularly to maintain effectiveness. Shares rallied after the company reported results for its SELECT cardiovascular trial, which reported non-diabetic overweight adults experienced a 20% drop in major cardiovascular events while on its obesity medications. This positive result potentially paves the way for increased insurance coverage and broader adoption.

Argenx is a commercial stage biotechnology company with an approved first-in-class, and potentially best-in-class, therapy (Vyvgart) for autoimmune diseases. Shares rallied in the quarter based on several catalysts that are expected to accelerate an already successful launch of Vyvgart to treat myasthenia gravis, a neuromuscular disease. First, the Food and Drug Administration approved the subcutaneous injection version of the treatment, Vyvgart Hytrulo. And second, the company reported positive trial results for the treatment of chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP), unlocking another major indication for Vyvgart. We see additional progress ahead with the drug's being studied in 11 other indications, a number of which will generate clinical trial data in the next year. Argenx is also growing its drug pipeline beyond Vyvgart with promising signs from another antibody, ARGX-117, that has the potential to reduce tissue inflammation and the adaptive immune response. With the profit cycle nicely in motion, we added to the position.

Intuit's two largest brands hold dominant market positions in their categories. QuickBooks has 75%–80% share in small business accounting, while TurboTax has 60%–65% share in tax prep software and 30% share of overall tax filings. And Intuit is driving growth within each platform. The recently launched QuickBooks Advanced is serving as a new customer acquisition opportunity for mid-sized customers (10-100 employees) and a retention tool for the 10%–15% of customers who "graduate" off the QuickBooks platform each year. Also, growth in its underpenetrated payroll and payments offerings is accelerating, which will drive higher average revenues per customer and higher margins. With TurboTax, the company is focusing on moving more people to live-assisted and full-service offerings. The do-it-yourself tax market is gaining 1%–2% of market share per year from accountants who hold about 40% market share. The overall tax market also should grow 1%–2% per year based on growth in total IRS returns. While the company has sizable exposure to the small- and medium-sized business market, we believe it should be insulated from an economic slowdown given its products' mission-critical nature. We are also encouraged

by the company's plans to improve the platform by utilizing artificial intelligence, which could drive an enhanced customer experience.

### Portfolio Activity

We initiated new Garden<sup>SM</sup> positions in West Pharmaceutical Services and Eaton during the quarter. West Pharmaceutical is a leading packaging components supplier for injectable pharmaceuticals, including rubber stoppers, seals and plungers. Reduced COVID-19 vaccine demand had meaningfully affected revenues and earnings of pharmaceutical companies and their suppliers in recent quarters, but we believe that headwind has largely dissipated and are optimistic about West's long-term profit growth prospects, which are fueled by its nearly 100% participation in new biologic drug approvals and a steady shift in demand toward the company's higher value-add components. For example, approximately 80% of West's volumes are basic components that cost a few pennies and carry ~25% gross margins, while the other 20% are higher value parts. Higher value components are made of better quality materials, may be pre-sterilized so they arrive at customers' facilities ready for use and may go through an automated inspection to remove defective components. Biotech and pharma companies launching new high-value biologic drugs prefer West's higher value components because they help prevent packaging or storage problems. As a result, West can charge 50 cents or more and earn ~60% gross margins. Strong demand for West's higher value components is driving a favorable mix shift that should lift margins and improve profitability, making the company a compelling long-term investment.

Eaton is a global power management company focused on electrical products, aerospace and car components. It has been a publicly listed company for over 100 years but has historically been viewed as a cyclical machinery company. However, the company has become a more diversified industrial. It divested several cyclical and/or low-return businesses and made acquisitions in aerospace and higher growth areas within electrical products. As a result, 70% of Eaton's revenues are now tied to electrical products. We believe Eaton's strategic move into higher growth and higher margin categories, along with the acceleration of electrification through energy transition projects and the reshoring of US manufacturing, will lead to meaningful long-term revenue growth.

Along with Adyen, we ended our investment campaigns in AIA Group and Neste during the quarter. AIA is the largest pan-Asian life and health insurer and has over 100 years of experience operating in the region. Our thesis was based on attractive GDP growth and rising middle-class incomes in the ASEAN region stimulating strong demand for life and health insurance policies. And we viewed China as Asia's most attractive insurance market due to its addressable market size, growth rates, profitability and deregulation of mainland China's market in 2020. Given those favorable fundamentals and AIA's strong brand, we believed the insurer could gain share in an expanding market. However, we believe China's weaker economic conditions will limit market penetration of insurance products and decided to exit the position.

Neste was a traditional crude oil refiner. Over time it converted its refineries to produce clean diesel by using alternative feedstocks, and it is now a global leader with ~40% market share. Neste has been grappling with a couple of adverse supply and demand dynamics. From a supply perspective, the amount of renewable diesel being produced, mainly from big oil companies, is more than we had expected. In our view, Neste produces truly renewable clean diesel by using sources such as recycled fat (from livestock) and cooking oil from restaurants. Other entities utilize soybean and palm oil, which we view as less sustainable. Nevertheless, the new capacity is pressuring prices. From a demand perspective, Sweden changed its renewable diesel blending mandate from 30.5% to 6% starting in 2024. Sweden accounts for a sizable percent of Neste's sales. While we are confident the company will find demand elsewhere, the added logistical costs will likely pressure margins. On a positive note, sustainable aviation fuel demand, which is higher margin, is growing nicely. However, supply and demand headwinds will take some time to work themselves out, leading us to exit our position.

Along with Argenx, the other notable add in the quarter was Microsoft. We started a new campaign in Microsoft in Q2 and added to the position this quarter. We view it as the cleanest and clearest way to invest in generative AI. The company is building AI-driven productivity tools (it calls them copilots) into all parts of its ecosystem. We have become convinced this is the way the world is moving. Microsoft's efforts started at GitHub, which it owns. GitHub developed Copilot, a generative AI model, to help software developers write code more efficiently. Microsoft subsequently integrated Copilot features into other applications, such as Windows. Given its rapid integration of Copilot features into more products (e.g., Office 365, Dynamics 365), we believe knowledge workers will become more productive and the company will capture higher revenue per user. Furthermore, AI's rise will also increase Azure usage and strengthen Microsoft's lead over public cloud competitors. Microsoft also has a potential competitive advantage given its already large existing base of enterprise customers.

Notable trims in the quarter included Progressive, Arista and Ingersoll Rand. Progressive is a leading US property and casualty insurance provider. We believe its data and operational advantages position it well to gain profitable market share in personal and commercial auto, and homeowners insurance. While we were frustrated by the company's recent financial results, we view current issues as mostly transitory. The first issue is a Florida legislative change to injury liability claims. Specifically, the new legislation is repealing "one-way" attorney fees, a law that forces insurance companies to pay policyholders' attorney fees when the insured wins a claim. Under the new law, each party will pay its own legal costs. We view this legislative change as a positive for Progressive longer term, but there has been a rush of new claims before the law goes into effect. The second issue is inflationary cost pressures rising faster than the company's ability to raise prices. For example, auto claims costs have been rising due to parts and labor shortages, which increase prices, and longer car rentals due to

those shortages. Raising premiums to match these rising costs is difficult because premium increases need to be approved by state insurance commissions. While we view these issues as transitory, we decided to trim the position in favor of higher conviction near-term ideas.

Arista Networks is the market leader in cloud networking equipment used in data centers. Arista's differentiated Extensible Operating System (EOS) software is easier to program, manage and scale, as well as more resilient, than legacy solutions. As a result, EOS can be a significant cost saver for customers. In addition, we believe Arista will take more market share as its switches are designed for cloud IT architectures, while legacy incumbents relying on older technology are struggling to adapt. The company reported strong financial results in the quarter, including 39% revenue growth, and increased market share in cloud. Arista is also well positioned to gain market share in AI cloud environments. Its ethernet options are more scalable and cheaper than InfiniBand, an out-of-the-box solution that NVIDIA provides. However, after the strong performance this year, we trimmed the position in the quarter based on our valuation discipline.

Ingersoll Rand is a global market leader in several mission-critical flow creation technologies for industrial and medical applications, including pumps and compressors. Recent earnings results beat expectations and revealed strong orders, margins and earnings. Orders were particularly strong at its industrial segment, with double-digit growth in compressor, vacuum and blower demand. We also continue to be impressed by management's handling of acquisition integration, marketing lead generation, new product development and employee engagement. We are cognizant of near-term cyclical industrial risks, but we also think Ingersoll's compressed air technologies will remain in demand as customers seek to reduce energy and water usage and generate fewer emissions. With the stock's valuation having expanded, we reduced the position in favor of earlier stage investments.

### Stewardship Update

Our stewardship activities aim to promote a positive direction of travel in our portfolio companies, especially as it pertains to practices that impact the long-term sustainability of a business. While direct engagement is essential to this objective, proxy voting remains a cornerstone of our approach to active ownership. It offers a structured and transparent way to voice our opinions on meaningful sustainability matters such as board leadership, executive compensation and shareholder proposals. The proxy voting process also facilitates ongoing discussions with the executive teams of our portfolio companies, leading to incremental insights into how leadership is thinking about its future opportunities and challenges. Highlights from the recent proxy voting season were discussed in our Q2 letter.

Now that the proxy season is largely over, our stewardship focus has incrementally shifted toward engagements that support the capital allocation phase of our investment process. We intentionally focus our interactions toward portfolio companies where we need a better understanding of specific sustainability topics flagged during our initial research or in the early stages of the investment

campaign. These discussions are deliberately designed to clarify management's approach to managing its risks and/or capitalizing on opportunities with respect to sustainability topics, informing the degree of conviction we hold in the investment thesis and influencing our capital allocation choices. Additionally, we are selectively engaging with portfolio companies that reach out to us with an interest in discussing sustainability matters. The number of inquiries from portfolio companies has continued to rise since we introduced our sustainability framework in 2019.

We look forward to sharing our stewardship efforts within our inaugural stewardship report, set to be released near the end of Q1 2024. This will replace our previous sustainability report, which delved into our sustainability framework, highlighted areas of continued team development and provided select stewardship examples. As we conclude the fifth year of formally integrating sustainability factors into our investment approach, we look forward to sharing our stewardship activities to demonstrate our role as active owners.

### Perspective

The market continues to be dominated by macroeconomic narratives. The "soft landing versus recession" debate (and what that means for the interest rate cycle) has driven growth stock performance for much of the year. As we entered Q3, investors were hopeful that the Fed was orchestrating a soft landing for the economy, largely thanks to falling inflation and resilient economic data. But sentiment reversed after the Fed reiterated its higher-for-longer stance and longer term yields soared.

Our crystal ball is no better than most in this area, but we would note that these levels of interest rates are not surprising for those of us who have been in the industry for a long time. We are just back to levels experienced before years of quantitative easing coming out of the global financial crisis, and our base case assumption is that rates could stay around these levels over the short to medium term. At the time of writing this, the 10-year Treasury yield is 4.8%, which is the same as the monthly average for the 10-year period from 1997 to 2007.

What would it mean for growth portfolios if our base case proves correct? Like most things in investing, it is nuanced. It is reasonable to assume that higher rates disproportionately impact longer duration growth equity valuations. However, we keep our valuation models updated based on current conditions and believe our aggregate portfolio discount to private market value (PMV) remains reasonable. Once multiples find their proper levels, it all comes down to fundamentals. One thing to point out is our portfolio carries relatively less leverage than the overall market, which means our companies are relatively insulated from the wave of refinancing activity that needs to happen in the coming years. At the end of Q3, our portfolio's long-term debt-to-capital ratio was 25% versus 38% for the MSCI All Country World Index.

As always, we focus less on top-down economic information and build portfolios from the bottom-up. We believe earnings growth drives long-term performance, and we continued to build conviction in several key portfolio themes throughout Q3. First, last



quarter we talked about the implications of recent generative AI breakthroughs. While the obvious beneficiaries are AI's semiconductor enablers, we have become more and more impressed by how our enterprise software businesses, such as Microsoft, Veeva and Atlassian, are integrating these capabilities into their products to drive enhanced value propositions to customers.

Within health care, our confidence in our biopharmaceutical investments increased during the quarter. In part, this was driven by positive R&D pipeline updates, including Argenx's highly successful C1DP trial results opening up a new multibillion-dollar market opportunity for Vyvgart. Also, we feel confident about the long-term growth potential of GLP-1 obesity drugs due to recent positive clinical trial data. We are excited about our direct exposure to this opportunity through Novo Nordisk and our indirect exposure through supply chain beneficiaries, such as West Pharmaceuticals and Lonza.

In addition, recent market volatility has allowed us to either increase our exposure to existing Garden<sup>SM</sup> positions or add new ones at attractive valuations. Not all of these Garden<sup>SM</sup> holdings have clear profit cycle momentum today, but our research suggests these franchises are well positioned for growth acceleration in the short to medium term. We are particularly intrigued by the early stage opportunities our team is identifying within the consumer and Internet sectors. In the short term, profit cycles in these areas are challenged by a range of post-COVID-19 macro headwinds, such as elevated inflation, supply chain normalization and the moderation of e-commerce utilization after 2020-2021's pull-forward of growth. But we have found unique franchises in these areas that we expect to emerge from this period with strong, sustainable profit growth, including e-commerce (Shopify, Amazon), entertainment (Tencent) and home construction/improvement (Lowe's).

There remains much uncertainty about the economy's direction, but we continue to follow our process, focusing on finding high-quality franchises with positive profit cycle outlooks. With valuations for growth equities still at reasonable levels, we believe these investments can yield attractive returns for longer term investors across most macroeconomic scenarios.

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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 and less developed markets, including frontier 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. The costs associated with this fund will impact your return over time. 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 in the Fund Documents.

*This is a marketing communication. Further fund details, including risks, fees and expenses, and other information, such as ESG practices, are set out in the current Prospectus, Supplements, Key Information Documents (KIDs) and other documentation (collectively, the Fund Documents), which can be obtained by calling +44 (0) 207 766 7130 or visiting [www.apgfunds-docs.com](http://www.apgfunds-docs.com). Please refer to the Fund Documents and consider all of a fund's characteristics before making any final investment decisions.*

This summary represents the views of the portfolio managers as of 30 Sep 2023. Those views may change, and the Fund disclaims any obligation to advise investors of such changes. Portfolio holdings are displayed in the context of marketing the fund shares and not the marketing of underlying portfolio securities. 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 30 Sep 2023: Novo Nordisk A/S 5.0%, Atlassian Corp 3.9%, Intuit Inc 3.4%, Lanza Group AG 3.2%, Argenx SE 2.4%, Keyence Corp 2.2%, Ingersoll Rand Inc 2.0%, Amazon.com Inc 1.7%, Microsoft Corp 1.7%, Arista Networks Inc 1.5%, Tencent Holdings Ltd 1.3%, Lowe's Cos Inc 1.1%, West Pharmaceutical Services Inc 0.9%, The Progressive Corp 0.7%, Shopify Inc 0.6%, Eaton Corp PLC 0.4%, Veeva Systems Inc 0.6%. 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.

ESG assessments represent one of many pieces of research available and the degree to which it impacts holdings may vary based on manager discretion.

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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