



Investment Process

We seek to invest in high-quality, undervalued companies with strong balance sheets and shareholder-oriented management teams.

Undervaluation

Determining the intrinsic value of a business is the heart of our research process. Intrinsic value represents the amount that a buyer would pay to own a company's future cash flows. We seek to invest at a significant discount to our estimate of the intrinsic value of a business.

Business Quality

We seek to invest in companies with histories of generating strong free cash flow, improving returns on capital and strong competitive positions in their industries.

Financial Strength

We believe that investing in companies with strong balance sheets helps to reduce the potential for capital risk and provides company management the ability to build value when attractive opportunities are available.

Shareholder-Oriented Management

Our research process attempts to identify management teams with a history of building value for shareholders.

Team Overview

Our team has worked together for many years and has implemented a consistent and disciplined investment process. Our team is organized by geographic regions, but within those regions we are generalists who look across all industries. We believe this model enables our analysts to become broad thinkers and gain critical insight across all economic sectors.

Portfolio Management



Daniel J. O'Keefe
Portfolio Manager (Lead)
Managing Director



Michael J. McKinnon, CFA
Portfolio Manager
Managing Director

Investment Results (% USD)

As of 30 June 2023	Average Annual Total Returns						
	QTD	YTD	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	Inception ¹
Composite — Gross	6.18	16.79	20.03	16.11	7.76	9.09	8.41
Composite — Net	5.93	16.25	18.90	15.02	6.74	8.05	7.38
MSCI All Country World Index	6.18	13.93	16.53	10.99	8.10	8.75	5.49
MSCI All Country World Value Index	2.98	4.25	9.95	11.82	5.16	6.18	3.47

Annual Returns (% USD) 12 months ended 30 June

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Composite — Net	4.01	-12.43	50.43	-14.92	18.90

Source: Artisan Partners/MSCI. Returns for periods less than one year are not annualized. ¹Composite inception: 1 July 2007.

Past performance does not guarantee and is not a reliable indicator of future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance shown. Composite performance has been presented in both gross and net of investment management fees.

Investment Risks: Investments will rise and fall with market fluctuations and investor capital is at risk. Investors investing in strategies 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 near the back of this document, which should be read in conjunction with this material.



Market Overview

Equity markets gained in Q2. Inflation remains stubbornly high, but it appears to have mostly plateaued. The debate on interest rates waxes and wanes: They will certainly go higher and stay high, or they will fall back down to pre-pandemic levels when inflation is broken. The economy will have a soft landing, or it will fall into recession. Our crystal ball is as hazy as anyone else's.

Even if we knew the direction of the macroeconomy in the short term, we don't know how much good it would do us in predicting individual share price performance. Consider this: The cost of a mortgage in the US is roughly twice what it was a year ago. If we had predicted this correctly, we probably would have been inclined to short house prices and housing stocks. But house prices are actually flat or up in most places, and home builder stocks have done well. Europe fell into a recession in Q1 and is bouncing along the recession line as we speak. Yet Heidelberg Materials, a European cyclical, is up almost 50% this year.

Share price gains were not universal. The majority of international markets saw low- to mid-single-digit gains in US dollar terms. Most currencies weakened versus the US dollar. Value stocks in general saw roughly similar gains. To a large extent, "international" is a proxy for "value" these days. There are few high-quality growth companies outside the US, at least in the sense that we now understand the term "growth" as equating to "information technology." This is a profound observation about the differences between the US economy and almost every other. Europe is economically stagnant and overregulated with policies that suppress innovation and entrepreneurialism. The same can be said for Japan, but even more so.

It's an oversimplification, but not an entirely inaccurate one, to state that the US has a monopoly on the fastest growing, most dynamic industry the world has ever seen. China has done far better than Europe and Japan in developing a tech industry, but geopolitical events are unfortunately leading to China's isolation from the West. China depends on the West for cutting-edge semiconductor technology, and the West is barring the sale of those products to China. The net result is an enormous and enduring economic competitive advantage for the US.

In our opinion, the US is more relatively advantaged than it has been since the end of WWII. As US citizens, we can be thankful as the country is also perhaps in the worst absolute condition of our lifetimes: Public finances are a disaster, demographics are a large long-term headwind, and our social and political fabric is dangerously torn. But almost all other countries are worse off.

US stocks massively outperformed international this quarter: The S&P 500® Index was up about 9% while the MSCI EAFE Index was up about 3% in US dollar terms. But gains in the US were extremely narrow, perhaps the narrowest we have seen in our careers. Seven mega-cap tech stocks accounted for two thirds of the S&P 500® Index's gain. And

most of them are expensive. Stripping out those seven names renders the S&P 500® Index's performance in line with international markets. Said another way, the average stock around the world gained a few percent while US mega-cap tech crushed it. Analysis of the MSCI All Country World Index is similar. More than 2,900 companies are in the MSCI AC World Index. Those same seven stocks accounted for more than half of that index's quarterly and YTD returns. Said a slightly different way, 0.25% of the companies in that index drove 54% of its return. Wow.

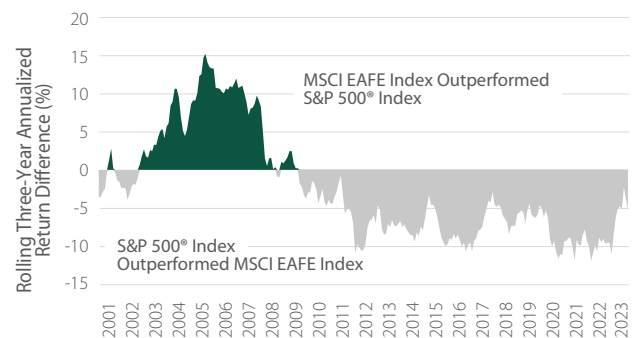
Exhibit 1: Ultra-Narrow Equity Market Leadership

	S&P 500® Index			MSCI AC World Index			2024 P/E
	Weight (%)	Contribution to Return (%)		Weight (%)	Contribution to Return (%)		
	Q2	Q2	YTD	Q2	Q2	YTD	
Apple	7.35	1.28	3.02	4.52	0.78	1.80	29.4
Microsoft	6.63	1.22	2.43	3.62	0.65	1.28	33.2
NVIDIA	2.31	1.08	2.18	1.33	0.62	1.22	61.2
Amazon	2.89	0.73	1.34	1.71	0.43	0.77	50.7
Alphabet	3.65	0.59	1.20	2.15	0.33	0.68	19.8
Meta	1.55	0.51	1.19	0.90	0.29	0.67	20.6
Tesla	1.52	0.41	1.13	0.90	0.25	0.65	61.7
Tech 7 Total	25.91	5.82	12.49	15.14	3.35	7.07	
Index Return		8.74	16.89		6.18	13.93	
Tech 7 Share of Total Index Return (%)		66.59	73.95		54.21	50.75	

Source: Bloomberg/MSCI/S&P. As of 30 Jun 2023. Past performance does not guarantee and is not a reliable indicator of future results.

The performance gap between US and international equity markets is notable not only for its quantum but also its duration. The US market has outperformed international since 2009. Again, this is largely due to the outperformance of growth versus value, or said another way, the outperformance of large-cap US tech over everything else.

Exhibit 2: US Stocks Have Outperformed International Stocks



Source: Artisan Partners/S&P/MSCI. US: S&P 500® Index. As of 30 Jun 2023. Past performance does not guarantee and is not a reliable indicator of future results.

Artificial intelligence (AI) largely explains the Q2 outperformance. It came to the forefront of investors' minds this quarter and turbocharged mega-cap tech stocks. AI is not new. Any software that engages in activities such as learning and problem-solving is AI. Machine learning is the most common form. When algorithms process large amounts of data and present it in analyzable form, that's machine learning. It can be used for real-time data analysis in a manufacturing plant or by an underwriting team at an insurance company.

Deep learning is a form of machine learning, and probably the one that propels AI into the realm of science fiction, at least as it was imagined 15 years ago. Self-driving cars use deep learning technology. This is what allows them to not only process enormous and changing inputs but also learn from and contextualize them. In this sense, machine learning takes on human characteristics.

But natural-language programming (NLP) is what really hit investor consciousness this quarter. Simplistically, these are AI programs that can interact with the human language. Chatbots, such as OpenAI's ChatGPT used by Microsoft Bing and Alphabet's Bard, are natural language programming AI. ChatGPT can create a legal brief in seconds, write a short story and draw up a contract. The potential applications of this technology are seemingly limitless, exciting and also terrifying.

Investors are clearly very enthusiastic about AI. The quarter felt very much like a hunt for which companies will emerge as winners in the era of AI. But as we pointed out, AI is not a single thing, and it is not new. Software is deeply ingrained in our economy already. Alphabet has been working on self-driving cars for about a decade. NLP has certainly jumped to the forefront of our minds, but we have had Apple's Siri on iPhones and Amazon's Alexa for years. Recent results from Nvidia, which supplies high-power semiconductors for AI applications, were stunning and focused investor attention on the growth potential. In two days, Nvidia added the market cap equivalent of McDonald's. Apple launched a virtual reality headset, and it got a lot more attention than the virtual reality headsets Meta has been selling for years.

Our point is that AI is a continuation of the trends we have been seeing for years. Computing power will increase. Software will continue to make inroads. Natural language applications will boost productivity across many industries, disrupting some while creating others. Almost all businesses will be impacted in much the same way as the Internet impacted every business.

Predictions made in Q2 2023 about the future winners and losers could be as accurate as the predictions made about the digital revolution at the peak of the Internet bubble in 1999. Remember Vodafone, the world's largest cell phone network operator? It traded at more than 100X earnings at the tech bubble's peak. It's down more than 80% since then and trades at 9X earnings. It's certainly tempting

to draw comparisons between the tech bubble of the late 1990s and today.

We think some comparisons are valid and others are not. The tech bubble was driven at least in part by speculative and unproven companies. But today's tech leaders are durable, real businesses with enormous competitive advantages. Most of them are simply expensive. The more valid comparison is the narrowness of the returns. Then as now, the market was driven by one area. Most other areas were either left for dead or neglected, resulting in attractive valuations. The same can be said today. Outside tech, most stocks are not up much, if at all. And many of them trade for single-digit or low double-digit valuations, particularly outside the US. Indeed, even as the tech revolution transformed the real economy from 1999 to 2009, cheap stocks outperformed, particularly international ones. The future could rhyme with the past. Most investors and most portfolios don't seem to recognize that possibility.

We clearly see more value outside the US currently. But it must be said that our preference for international stocks does not mean a preference for exposure to international economies. International companies, in many cases, have the same geographic revenue exposures as US companies. You can just buy those exposures much more cheaply through an international-listed company than you can a US-listed company. Samsung is a Korean semiconductor and hardware manufacturer. But it derives its revenue from markets all over the world, similar to US-listed semiconductor makers. Shell is a UK-based integrated oil and gas company with operations all over the world, similar to Exxon and Chevron in the US. Shell trades at almost half the multiple of those US companies, a discount that is in no way justified by the fundamentals.

Portfolio Discussion

Our best performing stocks this quarter were Meta, Alphabet and Heidelberg Materials.

Meta was the largest contributor to performance. Its shares have almost fully recovered from last year's declines, rising 35% during the quarter and 138% YTD. During the quarter, the company reported earnings that showed a return to growth and healthy user engagement metrics. Most importantly, profitability appears to have stabilized and is poised to improve as significant cost reduction actions implemented over the past six months begin to have an impact. Separate from fundamental performance, there is excitement over AI's potential to help the company's business. While Meta's technology prowess and massively scaled media platform certainly position the company to take advantage of AI, we believe it's far too early to estimate any discrete tangible benefits. Overall, we view AI as one of several drivers that will contribute to Meta's continued growth.

The rise in Alphabet's share performance was primarily driven by the AI frenzy. Earlier this year, there were some doubts about Alphabet's ability to compete with OpenAI's ChatGPT product. This was a bit ironic since Alphabet has been using AI technology to improve its

Google search results and advertising business for years. Indeed, the technology that underpins OpenAI's ChatGPT actually came from Alphabet more than five years ago. But sometimes the market needs a reminder, and Alphabet provided tangible evidence of its capabilities. At a recent developer conference, it launched Bard, a consumer-oriented generative AI version of its search engine, as well as several other concrete examples of how AI could improve its current business. As with Meta, the long-term implications of AI on Alphabet's business model are still far from certain. But we do believe that it is a technology leader in this field and will participate in whatever direction the technology develops.

Heidelberg Materials was up 17% this quarter in dollar terms and almost 50% YTD. The company reported good results, demonstrating an ability to raise prices to offset inflation and protect profitability. This is especially important as Europe's entire cement industry faces the expiration of free CO2 credits over the next few years. The industry will have to raise prices in order to absorb the cost of CO2 credits. Given that cement is a small fraction of construction project costs, we believe higher CO2 costs will be entirely passed on to buyers and ultimately consumers.

Our worst performing stocks this quarter were Alibaba, Advanced Auto and Progressive.

Alibaba shares declined 18% as China's economic recovery from the pandemic has been slower than expected, impacting Alibaba's retail business. The company's core e-commerce business has yet to return to growth, with online shopping volumes down 5% in Q1. Despite the slow recovery, management has been proactive in implementing actions that should eventually create value for shareholders. It has meaningfully reduced spending on loss-making businesses, which has allowed it to grow profits in a weak revenue environment. Alibaba has also implemented a plan to effectively break up the company into six parts, which should force the market to recognize the value of the many businesses hidden beneath its surface. On top of this, there are signs the government is ending its regulatory attack on domestic tech companies, which should allow Alibaba to realize some of the value from its investment in Ant Financial. We estimate the underlying business is trading at around 5X unlevered earnings, which makes it one of the cheapest valuations for a high-quality business that we have seen in our careers.

Advance Auto shares declined 40% as the company continues to underperform its peer group. It also reset its growth and profitability outlook. The business now expects to have flat revenue growth and 5% margins this year. This compares to 4%–5% growth and 20% margins for its primary competitor. The company's planned turnaround has largely failed, with expected profits this year to be lower than they were when now-departing CEO Tom Greco took over in 2016. Given the poor operational performance, we exited our position during the quarter.

A brief post-mortem is appropriate. Our initial investment thesis revolved around a cheap valuation for a company operating in an attractive industry that should have been able to close its performance gap with peers. The operational improvement never happened, which means this is appropriately characterized as a mistake. However, it's worth noting that we were still able to earn a decent profit due to the margin of safety built into the investment through a cheap valuation and favorable industry backdrop.

Progressive shares declined 7% due to a period of poor underwriting that has impacted its profitability. Much of this is due to recent tort reform in Florida. The new laws will eventually be a benefit. However, in the short term, it has triggered a flood of claims as attorneys rush to file ahead of the new law. This is obviously a one-time issue. Overall, the business growth remains good, and we expect underwriting profits to normalize. The company's profits will also benefit from higher interest rates boosting its investment portfolio performance. This is a very high-quality business that remains reasonably priced on normalized underwriting earnings.

We added Heineken to the portfolio this quarter. Heineken is the world's second-largest brewer and holds the No. 1 or No. 2 market share position in 71 markets. The company's exposure to emerging markets (53% of revenue) should provide structurally above-market growth. While beer is inherently a local business, the company's premium Heineken brand, accounting for 21% of total volume, appeals to consumers in many markets and is the largest premium beer brand by value in the world. In total, premium beer represents over 40% of the company's revenue. Premium beer grows faster and has higher margins.

We also like CEO Dolf van den Brink's strategic framework. He took over in 2020 and has pivoted toward a better balance between volume growth and value growth. Historically, Heineken was focused on volume growth and footprint expansion, often via M&A. The focus now is on generating better organic growth and better returns on capital.

We believe there is some opportunity for margin expansion as inflation normalizes. Heineken buys forward many of its raw materials, and the jump in inflation, which started more than a year ago, is still working its way through its financials. More recently, there has been an acute decline in spot prices for key inputs, such as aluminum, energy and barley. These lower prices should work their way into Heineken's margins over the next 18 months. Additionally, the company has overachieved on its €2 billion cost savings plan (EverGreen) and has line of sight to meaningful incremental efficiency opportunities.

The share price has been weak due to short-term headwinds in key markets such as Vietnam, Mexico and Africa. Results in the second half of this year are likely to be poor. But we think the shares offer good value based on attractive market positions, structural and cyclical

margin opportunities, and a discounted valuation (15X–16X 2024 earnings).

Conclusion

Stocks outside the US and cyclical businesses in general remain attractively priced. Rarely have we owned so many companies trading at single digit P/E multiples. Absent a severe recession, we expect these areas of the portfolio to drive returns in the short and medium term. We appreciate your support and remain heavily invested alongside you.

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For the purpose of determining the portfolio's holdings, securities of the same issuer are aggregated to determine the weight in the Strategy. The holdings mentioned above comprised the following percentages of a representative account within the Artisan Global Value Strategy Composite's total net assets as of as of 30 Jun 2023: Samsung Electronics Co Ltd 5.0%, Meta Platforms Inc 4.4%, Heidelberg Materials AG 4.4%, Alphabet Inc 4.2%, Shell PLC 2.7%, Alibaba Group Holding Ltd 2.6%, The Progressive Corp 2.4%, Heineken NV 1.5%. Securities named in the Commentary, but not listed here are not held in the portfolio as of the date of this report.

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