

Morgan Stanley Institutional Fund

# International Advantage Portfolio

GLOBAL OPPORTUNITY TEAM

## Performance Review

In the quarter period ending December 31, 2023, the Portfolio's I shares returned 13.88% (net of fees)<sup>1</sup>, while the benchmark returned 9.75%.

The Global Opportunity team creates a high conviction, concentrated portfolio of undervalued, high quality businesses. The long-term investment horizon and high active share approach can result in periods of performance deviation from the benchmark. The Fund outperformed the MSCI All Country ("AC") World ex USA Index this period due to favorable stock selection.

## Market Review

International equities rallied on signs of moderating inflation and optimism that interest rates may have peaked with central banks expected to lower interest rates in 2024. Information technology, utilities and materials led benchmark gains, while the energy, communication services and health care sectors underperformed the benchmark.

## Portfolio Review

During the quarter, stock selection in the consumer discretionary, financials and health care sectors were the greatest overall contributors to the relative performance of the portfolio. Top contributors included Dutch payments solution provider Adyen NV, Latin American ecommerce platform MercadoLibre Inc., Dutch supplier of lithography equipment ASML Holding NV, Canadian ecommerce solution Shopify Inc. and French luxury brand Hermès International SCA.

Stock selection in industrials, a sector overweight allocation to consumer discretionary and stock selection in consumer staples detracted from relative performance. Top detractors included Danish transportation and logistics company DSV A/S, premium outerwear company Canada Goose Holdings, Italian purveyor of cocktail spirits Davide Campari-Milano NV, German athleisure brand PUMA SE and premium beverages company Diageo Plc.

Top contributor Adyen NV is uniquely positioned as a technology company within the payment processing industry that is differentiated from peers with a single stack platform, enabling acceptance and processing of cards and local payments globally across its merchants' online, mobile and point-of-sale channels. We believe that Adyen can benefit from increasing card payment penetration globally, as its offerings increase price transparency while providing industry-leading authorization rates and unified commerce experiences.

Top detractor DSV is a leading global asset light freight forwarder with a unique blend of people, processes and information technology services. DSV enjoys leading positions in air and sea logistics globally as a result of strategic acquisitions that have diversified the firm out of the core road forwarding business and enabled it to grow in scale, network and sophistication in digital capabilities, on top of industry consolidation trends. We believe the company's information technology platform, people and processes allow it to operate efficiently in the value-added activities in forwarding that have been more immune from digital disruptions and volatile market pricing. The company also maintains a shareholder-friendly capital allocation policy that combines share buybacks with stable dividends.

We have made minimal changes to the portfolio given our conviction in the long-term investment thesis of existing holdings. We have optimized the portfolio by re-allocating to positions where we believe that market valuations have disconnected from intrinsic value.

Newly initiated positions include a stock exchange and footwear company. The Fund currently does not hold any positions domiciled in China.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Morgan Stanley Investment Management. Data as of December 31, 2023. Performance for other share classes will vary.

This document constitutes a commentary and does not constitute investment advice nor a recommendation to invest. The value of investments may rise as well as fall. Independent advice should be sought before any decision to invest.

NOT FDIC INSURED | OFFER NO BANK GUARANTEE | MAY LOSE VALUE | NOT INSURED BY ANY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY | NOT A DEPOSIT

## Outlook

As a team, we continue to focus on bottom-up stock selection and the long-term outlook for companies owned in the portfolio. We assess company prospects over a five- to ten-year time horizon and own a portfolio of what we believe are undervalued, high quality companies with diverse business drivers not tied to any particular market environment.

## Fund Facts

Inception Date	December 28, 2010
Minimum Initial Investment (\$)*	A Shares - 1,000
	I Shares - 1,000,000
Benchmark	MSCI All Country World ex USA Index
Class I expense ratio	<b>Gross 1.01 %</b>
	<b>Net 1.00 %</b>
Class A expense ratio	<b>Gross 1.30 %</b>
	<b>Net 1.30 %</b>

Where the net expense ratio is lower than the gross expense ratio, certain fees have been waived and/or expenses reimbursed. These waivers and/or reimbursements will continue for at least one year from the date of the applicable fund's current prospectus (unless otherwise noted in the applicable prospectus) or until such time as the fund's Board of Directors acts to discontinue all or a portion of such waivers and/or reimbursements. Absent such waivers and/or reimbursements, returns would have been lower. Expenses are based on the fund's current prospectus.

## Performance (%)

As of December 31, 2023	MTD	QTD	YTD	1 YR	3 YR	5 YR	10 YR
Class I Shares at NAV	7.41	13.88	18.38	18.38	-4.24	8.61	9.16
Class A Shares at NAV	7.41	13.83	18.07	18.07	-4.51	8.30	8.83
Class A Shares (With Max 5.25% Sales Charge)	1.77	7.83	11.85	11.85	-6.21	7.14	8.24
MSCI All Country World ex USA Index	5.02	9.75	15.62	15.62	1.55	7.08	3.83

Performance data quoted represents past performance, which is no guarantee of future results, and current performance may be lower or higher than the figures shown. For the most recent month end performance figures, please visit [morganstanley.com/im](https://morganstanley.com/im). Investment returns and principal value will fluctuate and fund shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost.

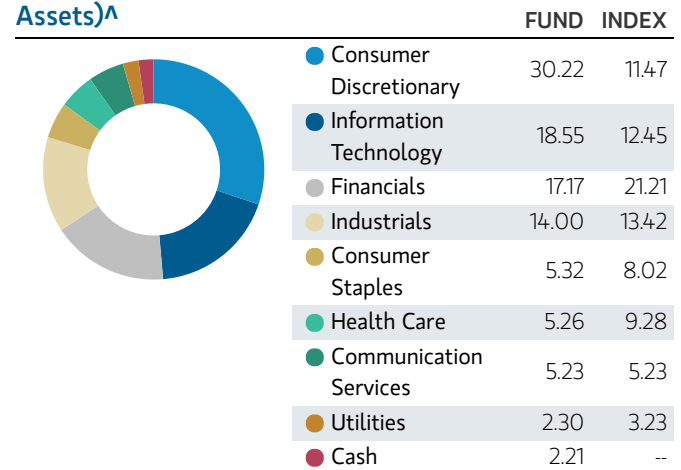
Returns are net of fees and assume the reinvestment of all dividends and income. They are compared to an unmanaged market index. Returns for less than one year are cumulative (not annualized). Performance for one year or more is based on average annual total returns. The returns are reported for Class I and A shares. Performance for other share classes will vary.

\* Share class availability may vary by platform. For more information, please visit the specified fund page on the website.

### Top Holdings (% of Total Net Assets)

	FUND	INDEX
DSV A/S	7.63	0.13
Hermès International S.A.	7.55	0.27
HDFC Bank Ltd	6.15	0.23
Moncler SPA	6.14	0.05
ASML Holding NV	5.89	1.21
MercadoLibre Inc	5.64	--
Keyence Corp	4.87	0.34
Straumann Holding AG	4.86	0.07
Shopify Inc	3.90	0.37
Taiwan Semiconductor Mfg Co. Ltd	3.89	1.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>56.52</b>	<b>--</b>

### Sector Allocation (% of Total Net Assets)<sup>^</sup>



<sup>^</sup> May not sum to 100% due to the exclusion of other assets and liabilities.

### INDEX INFORMATION

The **MSCI All Country World Ex-U.S. Index** is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index designed to measure the equity market performance of developed and emerging markets, excluding the U.S. The term "free float" represents the portion of shares outstanding that are deemed to be available for purchase in the public equity markets by investors. The performance of the Index is listed in U.S. dollars and assumes reinvestment of net dividends. The index does not include any expenses, fees or sales charges, which would lower performance.

The Indexes are unmanaged and do not include any expenses, fees or sales charges. It is not possible to invest directly in an Index. Any index referred to herein is the intellectual property (including registered trademarks) of the applicable licensor.

### RISK CONSIDERATIONS

There is no assurance that a Portfolio will achieve its investment objective. Portfolios are subject to market risk, which is the possibility that the market values of securities owned by the Portfolio will decline and that the value of Portfolio shares may therefore be less than what you paid for them. Market values can change daily due to economic and other events (e.g. natural disasters, health crises, terrorism, conflicts and social unrest) that affect markets, countries, companies or governments. It is difficult to predict the timing, duration, and potential adverse effects (e.g. portfolio liquidity) of events. Accordingly, you can lose money investing in this Portfolio. Please be aware that this Portfolio may be subject to certain additional risks. In general, **equities securities**' values also fluctuate in response to activities specific to a company. Investments in **foreign markets** entail special risks such as currency, political, economic, market and liquidity risks. The risks of investing in **emerging market countries** are greater than risks associated with investments in foreign developed countries. To the extent that the Fund invests in a limited number of issuers (**focused investing**), the Fund will be more susceptible to negative events affecting those issuers and a

decline in the value of a particular instrument may cause the Fund's overall value to decline to a greater degree than if the Fund were invested more widely. **Illiquid securities** may be more difficult to sell and value than publicly traded securities (liquidity risk). **Derivative instruments** may disproportionately increase losses and have a significant impact on performance. They also may be subject to counterparty, liquidity, valuation, correlation and market risks. **Privately placed and restricted securities** may be subject to resale restrictions as well as a lack of publicly available information, which will increase their illiquidity and could adversely affect the ability to value and sell them (liquidity risk). There is no assurance strategies that incorporate **ESG factors** will result in more favorable investment performance. **China risk** Investments in China involve risk of a total loss due to government action or inaction. Additionally, the Chinese economy is export-driven and highly reliant on trade. Adverse changes to the economic conditions of its primary trading partners, such as the United States, Japan and South Korea, would adversely impact the Chinese economy and the Fund's investments. Moreover, a slowdown in other significant economies of the world, such as the United States, the European Union and certain Asian countries, may adversely affect economic growth in China. An economic downturn in China would adversely impact the Portfolio's investments. **Risks of Investing through Stock Connect.** Any investments in A-shares listed and traded through Stock Connect, or on such other stock exchanges in China which participate in Stock Connect is subject to a number of restrictions that may affect the Portfolio's investments and returns. Moreover, Stock Connect A shares generally may not be sold, purchased or otherwise transferred other than through Stock Connect in accordance with applicable rules. The Stock Connect program may be subject to further interpretation and guidance. There can be no assurance as to the program's continued existence or whether future developments regarding the program may restrict or adversely affect the Portfolio's investments or returns. There is no assurance strategies that incorporate **ESG factors** will result in more favorable investment performance. **Active Management Risk.** The Adviser has

considerable leeway in deciding which investments to buy, hold or sell, and which trading strategies to use. Such decisions will affect performance. To the extent the Portfolio invests a substantial portion of its assets in the **information technology sector**, the Portfolio may be particularly impacted by events that adversely affect the sector, and may fluctuate more than that of a portfolio that does not invest significantly in companies in the technology sector. To the extent the Portfolio invests a substantial portion of its assets in the **consumer discretionary sector**, the Portfolio may be particularly susceptible to the risks associated with companies operating in such sector.

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

The views and opinions and/or analysis expressed are those of the investment team as of the date of preparation of this material and are subject to change at any time without notice due to market or economic conditions and may not necessarily come to pass. Furthermore, the views will not be updated or otherwise revised to reflect information that subsequently becomes available or circumstances existing, or changes occurring, after the date of publication. The views expressed do not reflect the opinions of all investment personnel at Morgan Stanley Investment Management (MSIM) and its subsidiaries and affiliates (collectively "the Firm"), and may not be reflected in all the strategies and products that the Firm offers.

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**Please consider the investment objective, risks, charges and expenses of the fund carefully before investing. The prospectus contains this and other information about the fund. To obtain a prospectus, download one at [morganstanley.com/im](https://morganstanley.com/im) or call 1-800-548-7786. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing.**

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