



## ASCENDERCAPITAL

### FUND STRATEGY

The Fund seeks to invest in a balanced portfolio of high quality businesses across the Asian equity markets not accessible through passive and larger funds.

We focus exclusively on companies with a track record of profitability, capital efficiency and good corporate governance.

The Fund invests with a margin of safety by demanding attractive valuations and a strong financial position.

### FUND OVERVIEW

<b>Inception</b>	December 1, 2012
<b>Portfolio Manager</b>	Edouard Mercier & Jean-Charles Tisserand
<b>Management Fee</b>	1%
<b>Performance Fee</b>	20% of profits, with 5% Hurdle Highwater Mark
<b>Asset Classes</b>	Equities, Cash, Derivatives
<b>Minimum Investment</b>	US\$1,000,000
<b>Investing</b>	Monthly
<b>Redemption</b>	Monthly Liquidity No lock-up 5% under 3 mos.
<b>Legal Entity</b>	Stichting (NL)
<b>ISIN</b>	NL0012817183
<b>Administrator</b>	Bolder Group
<b>Custodian</b>	DBS
<b>Auditors</b>	IUS
<b>Legal Advisors</b>	Van Campen Liem

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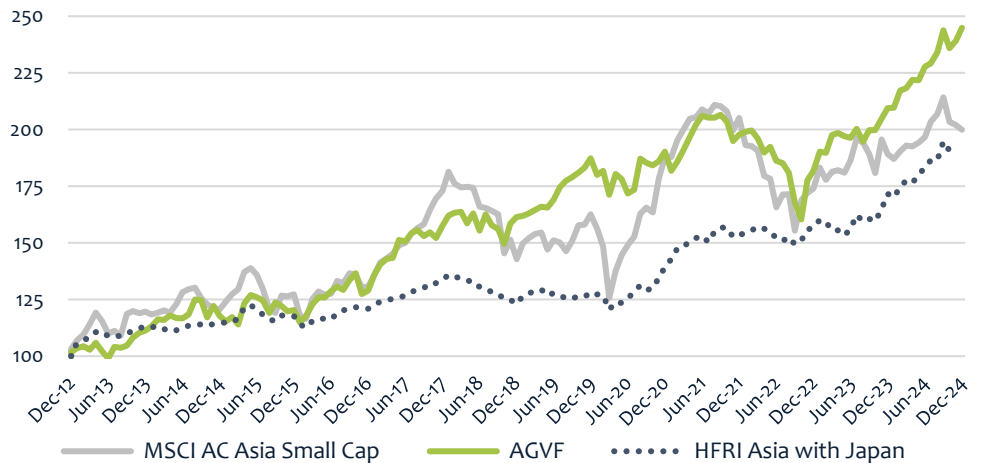
# ASCENDER GLOBAL VALUE FUND

December 2024 FACTSHEET – NAV 155.52

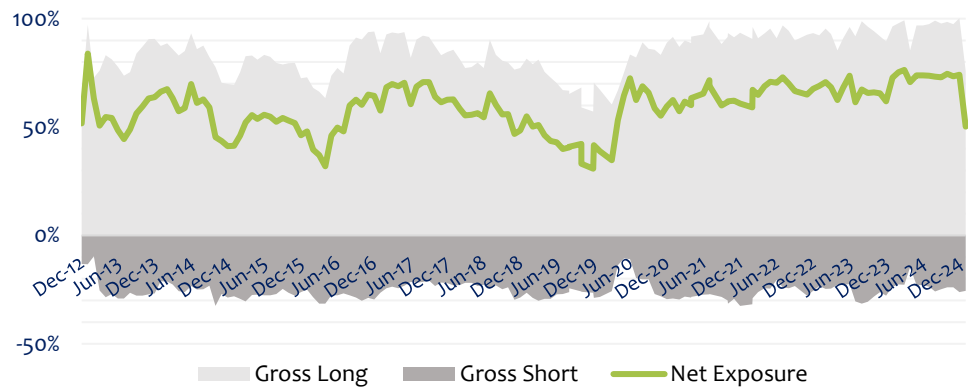
### PERFORMANCE AS OF 31 December 2024

Class	1 month	YTD	1 Year	Annualized		
				3 Year	5 Year	Since Launch
<b>Lead Series - Class B</b>	2.4%	16.9%	16.9%	7.4%	5.5%	7.7%
<b>MSCI Asia Small Cap</b>	-1.1%	5.7%	5.7%	1.2%	5.5%	6.5%

### PERFORMANCE CHART (TOTAL NET RETURN)

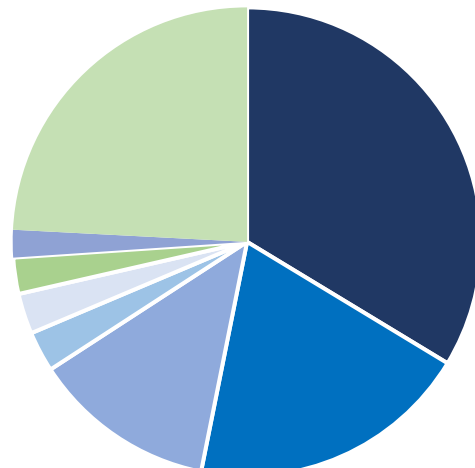


### GROSS/NET EXPOSURE



### GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN

- 33.7% Japan
- 19.5% Hong Kong
- 12.7% China
- 2.8% Philippines
- 2.8% Indonesia
- 2.5% New Zealand
- 1.9% Australia
- 24.2% Cash





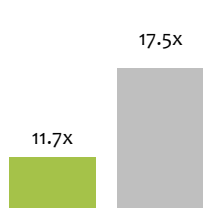
# ASCENDER GLOBAL VALUE FUND

December 2024 – NAV 155.52

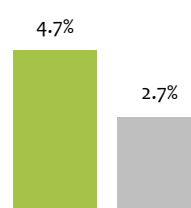
## PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS

P/E Ratio (TTM)	11.7x
EV/EBIT Ratio (TTM)	7.2x
Dividend Yield	4.7%
Return on Equity	17.3%
Net Cash to Mkt Cap	24.9%
7 Year EBIT Growth	11.1%
Median Mkt Cap	\$524m
# of Holdings	27
Gross Long	75.8%
Gross Short	25.6%

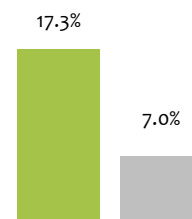
## PRICE/EARNINGS



## DIVIDEND YIELD



## RETURN ON EQUITY



— Ascender — MSCI AC Asia SC

## LONG/SHORT CONTRIBUTION YTD 2024

Asset Class	YTD Contribution
Equity (Long)	30.1%
Equity (Unrealized FX)	-4.1%
Futures (Short)	-1.3%

## TOP 3 MONTHLY CONTRIBUTORS AND DETRACTORS (AGVF EQUITY POSITIONS)

Contributors	Contribution (bps)
Beenos	1.2%
Xinhua Winshare	0.7%
Modern Dental	0.4%

Detractors	Contribution (bps)
Temairazu	-0.3%
Business Engineering	-0.1%
Zengame	-0.1%

## MONTHLY COMMENTARY

The highlight of the month was the acquisition of our largest position, **Beenos**, by LY Corp, the conglomerate overseeing Softbank's Japanese internet assets. With our business and strategy plan that we developed for our discussions with management indicating a potential 50% higher valuation than the bid price of ¥4,000 by September 2026, the offer fell short of our expectations. Businesses growing profitably at 20% annually, with minimal customer acquisition costs, are rare.

On the bright side, this marks the fifth acquisition of a Japanese portfolio company within our fund, highlighting the compelling opportunities we find among quality small to mid-sized companies in Japan. We are particularly enthusiastic about the 388—and growing—listed System Integrators and Software companies, a sector where we believe our insights provide a distinct competitive advantage.

Another standout performer over the past three years has been **JNBY**, which delivered robust operational results supported by a generous capital allocation strategy. However, recent developments led us to make a decisive exit. Within a week of the company announcing its acquisition of a struggling fashion concept store from its two founders—including the associated lease and inventory liabilities—we sold our stake. Although the costs involved were a minor percentage of the company's annual EBIT, discussions surrounding the acquisition's rationale, coupled with management's lack of responsiveness to our opposition, revealed a misalignment with minority shareholder interest that we had not seen coming.

## ASCENDER GLOBAL VALUE FUND

December 2024 – NAV 155.52

Reflecting on 2024, Asian indices delivered subdued returns (~6%), with Japan's TOPIX standing out, achieving strong local currency gains (~21%). However, the 10% depreciation of the yen—nearly half of which occurred in December—dampened these gains, as it did our own results.

We are particularly pleased with our outperformance this year, especially given the low risk taken to achieve it. Our portfolio companies operate in stable sectors, benefit from growing, recurring revenues, and maintain substantial cash reserves on their balance sheets.

Looking ahead to 2025, our strategy remains consistent with that of 2024. We plan to keep allocating half of our portfolio to high-dividend-yielding, quality recurring service companies in China, where valuations have returned to September lows, and the other half to high-quality, growing software companies in Japan, which trade at a fraction of U.S. valuations.

We will closely monitor developments in China and continue to strengthen engagement with Japanese management teams, focusing on enhancing capital allocation strategies or, if necessary, exploring opportunities to position companies for sale.

### MONTHLY PERFORMANCE (%)

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The performance chart (net total return) does not include the current months' HFRI index data as that is only released after five business days of the month and then modified again after all participants share their data. Therefore, we use accurate all accurate HFRI data points until the month preceding the current factsheet.

The past performance information of the market, manager and investments and any forecasts on the economy, stock market, bond market or the economic trends of the markets which are targeted by the fund(s) are not indicative of future performance. The value of an investment in the Fund may go down or up. The Fund does not offer any performance or capital guarantee. The Prospectus should be read for further details including the risk factors. The Fund may invest in derivatives for hedging purpose only. Investment in derivatives is subject to additional risks, including credit risk of the issuer, liquidity risk, counterparty risk and valuation risk. In adverse situation, the Fund's use of derivatives may become ineffective in hedging and the Fund may suffer losses. Additional risk factors are described in the prospectus. Investors are advised to be aware of any new risks that may have emerged in the prevailing market circumstances before subscribing in the Fund.