

#### **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**

Inception	December 1, 2021
Portfolio Manager	Edouard Mercier & Jean-Charles Tisserand
Management Fee	1.5%
Performance Fee	20% of net alpha vs. MSCI AC Asia Small Cap
Asset Classes	Equities & Cash
Minimum Investment	US\$1,000,000
Investing	Monthly Liquidity
Investing  Redemption	Monthly Liquidity  Monthly Liquidity  Early redemption fee for first 3 years
	Monthly Liquidity Early redemption
Redemption	Monthly Liquidity Early redemption fee for first 3 years Open ended investment fund incorporated in
Redemption  Legal Entity	Monthly Liquidity Early redemption fee for first 3 years Open ended investment fund incorporated in Cayman Islands
Redemption  Legal Entity  Administrator	Monthly Liquidity Early redemption fee for first 3 years  Open ended investment fund incorporated in Cayman Islands  Bolder Group

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## ASCENDER ASIA FUND

July 2024 FACTSHEET - NAV 112.34

### PERFORMANCE AS OF 31 July 2024

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Class	1 month	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	Since Launch		
Lead Series - Class A (Gross)	3.1%	13.8%	22.8%	4.2%*	9.4%*	13.7%*		
Lead Series - Class A (Net)	3.0%	12.1%	19.7%	1.5%**	6.2%**	10.3%**		
MSCI Asia Small Cap	3.5%	7.6%	12.3%	1.5%	7.6%	6.9%		

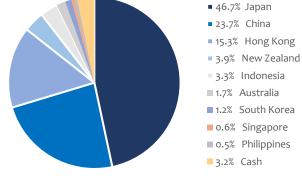
Annualized

### PERFORMANCE CHART (TOTAL NET RETURN)



<sup>\*</sup> This has been calculated by removing cash and short positions from the Ascender Global Value Fund. Performance shown assumes investment of 95% and 5% in cash. Calculated before fund's costs and fees

# GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS



PRICE/EARNINGS

## DIVIDEND YIELD RETURN ON EQUITY

P/E Ratio (TTM)

Dividend Yield

Return on Equity

EV/EBIT Ratio (TTM)

Net Cash to Mkt Cap

7 Year EBIT Growth

Median Mkt Cap

# of Holdings

**Gross Long** 

11.9X

6.5x

4.8%

18.0%

24.7%

12.0%

\$447m

96.8%



<sup>\*\*</sup>Note the shaded area and dotted line reflects AAF performance estimates, net of costs & fees. This has been calculated by removing cash and short positions from the Ascender Global Value Fund. Performance shown assumes investment of 95% and 5% in cash. Calculated after fund's costs and fees



## **ASCENDER ASIA FUND**

July 2024 - NAV 112.34

### TOP 3 MONTHLY CONTRIBUTORS AND DETRACTORS FOR EQUITY POSITIONS

Contributors	Contribution (bps)	Detractors	Contribution (bps)
Beenos	0.7%	JNBY	-1.1%
Argo Graphics	0.6%	Crystal Intl'	-0.4%
United Tractors	0.5%	MCJ	-0.3%

#### LONG CONTRIBUTION YTD 2024

Asset Class	YTD Contribution				
Equity (Long)	17.6%				
Equity (Unrealized FX)	-2.5%				

#### **MONTHLY COMMENTARY**

This month, the fund performance was +3.0%.

We take pride in our ability to establish a dialogue with management teams. In a region where most companies have limited quality disclosure on their business model and strategic positioning, these meetings provide us with valuable insights on both fronts.

One key focus for us is identifying the percentage of revenues that can be broadly defined as recurring. This gives us better visibility on past earnings track records and, more importantly, on the predictability of future earnings streams. For instance, in Japan, the term "stock-based" revenues may include de facto recurring revenues in addition to contractually agreed ones. This data is usually not published. As an example, understanding the strong relationship between System Integrators and their customers remains a significant differentiator in our portfolio selection.

These meetings also offer an opportunity to gauge management's openness. We value straightforward and clear answers to our questions, especially concerning noticeable positive or negative changes to earnings. We promptly reassess our investments when management clearly withholds important information about new income sources or potential losses of contracts or licenses.

We sold **CITIC Telecom** in early July after a series of interactions with management, which led us to believe they had not been forthcoming about the exact source of a major increase in international messaging revenues that turned out to be from low-quality spamming service providers. We also grew suspicious of delays in renewing its mobile and broadband licenses in Macau.

Although we regret not recognizing the lack of clarity from management earlier, we sold ahead of a profit warning on July 19th, which caused the share price to dive 20% the following day. The profit warning disclosure was written in such an obfuscated way that it will serve as a helpful example of what not to expect from our management teams!



## ASCENDER ASIA FUND

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## **MONTHLY PERFORMANCE (%)\***

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	FY
2024	-1.0	5.9	0.7	0.2	0.7	2.2	3.0						12.1
2023	6.9	-1.2	2.7	0.0	-1.2	1.5	3.3	-4.6	1.2	-1.2	4.7	6.9	20.0
2022	-3.8	1.2	-1.5	-7.2	1.0	-5.7	2.7	-2.2	-9.8	-2.4	11.5	1.1	-15.6
2021	-3.5	4.6	3.5	4.2	3.7	3.0	-1.6	0.9	0.4	-1.0	-7.1	-1.2*	5.4*
2020	7.0	-2.0	-16.7	9.5	-0.7	-3.8	1.6	10.1	1.4	-0.5	5.8	5.2	-0.2
2019	3.9	2.6	0.3	2.3	-3.5	5.5	6.3	1.3	2.2	3.0	4.4	1.3	33.6
2018	4.8	0.0	0.6	-3.6	4.5	-4.9	5.7	-2.3	-2.1	-8.1	7.8	-4.7	-3.6
2017	5.6	5.1	2.1	0.5	7.0	-0.6	3.4	0.8	-1.0	1.8	-1.6	3.3	29.3
2016	-8.6	3.6	10.1	4.2	0.7	2.7	5.1	-0.9	4.8	1.2	-4.0	0.0	19.1
2015	-4.3	4.5	-2.6	8.3	4.0	-0.6	-1.7	-7.2	3.1	0.1	-1.3	-1.2	0.1
2014	1.5	4.9	-0.5	1.8	-1.0	0.0	0.5	8.9	-2.0	-4.8	5.9	-5.6	8.8
2013	2.8	1.4	-1.5	4.9	-4.7	-4.5	8.3	-1.5	3.	5.1	2.9	0.8	17.3
2012											3	3.4	3.4

<sup>\*</sup>Note the shaded area and dotted line reflects AAF performance estimates, net of costs & fees. This has been calculated by removing cash and short positions from Ascender Global Value Fund. Performance shown assumes investment of 95% and 5% in cash. Calculated after fund's costs and fees



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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.