

#### **APPLIED RESEARCH INVESTMENTS**

#### MONTHLY PORTFOLIO COMMENTARY

March 09, 2022

To:

Leading Edge Investment Advisors ARI Account Number: U19A104 Client Name: NYCTRS

Client Name: NYCTRS
Custodian Account: N0TR

Account Representative: Amira Strasser, CEO Contact: (212) 419-0573, <a href="mailto:strasser@arinvgroup.com">strasser@arinvgroup.com</a>

#### Portfolio Commentary for the month of February 2022:

The portfolio underperformed the benchmark in February 2022 (N.B. the accounts were closed mid-month – *commentary is for the entire month*). Technology, luxury and high multiple growth stocks continued to experience a valuation contraction, as the value-growth sentiment shift continued, and the geopolitical environment changed dramatically after Russia's aggression towards Ukraine. Companies most affected by the conflict in Ukraine include those that are highly involved within global supply chain and those that depend on energy and commodities inputs (like wheat and various industrial metals). Portfolio underperformance was led by Shopify, Taiwan Semiconductor, and LVMH. The portfolio's holdings in Bank Rakyat, Novo Nordisk, Nestle and Pernod outperformed.

#### Market Outlook:

- The Quarter... In Q4-21, U19A104 gained 4.56%, outperforming the MSCI ACWI ex. US index by 2.75%. For 2021, the account increased 6.25%, underperforming the benchmark by 1.58%.
  - Despite a volatile November, most global equity markets performed strongly overall in the final quarter of 2021 as investors focused on robust corporate earnings growth and resiliency, offsetting worries over the spread of the new Omicron variant and fears of runaway inflation. China was one of the worst-performing major equity markets in the quarter, along with neighbor Hong-Kong, on investor concerns about the government's stringent "zero COVID" policy and political scrutiny on certain domestic business models. The interest rate environment in Q4 reflected uncertainty, due to the spread of the Omicron variant in December.
  - Luxury goods names performed strongly in the period, recovering from the summer sell-off which was caused by the introduction of policies and scrutiny focused on "common prosperity" in China. During the quarter, the account benefitted from appreciation in its top European positions, including: Sika, Teleperformance, DSM and Atlas Copco. The strategy was negatively impacted by a decline in Sea Ltd.

#### ARI's View...

- The equity market risk-reward ratio is mixed with opportunities within certain business models and greater risks to valuation in others.
- Supply chain constraints caused by labor shortages and stricter lockdown measures across SE Asia to increasingly add pressure on material and input costs. Corporate earnings for many exposed companies are likely to be negatively affected over the next few quarters.
- China continues to experience regional COVID outbreaks, which may intensify and prove troublesome for a restart of the economy. In addition, ARI's view on the investing risks in China has not changed, ARI established a framework to categorize China's political events in 2021 (1) limiting the dominance of powerful corporate players (2) promoting common prosperity to reduce income/wealth inequality (3) evolving social values (4) reinvigorating long term population growth and therefore long term sustainable economic growth.
- ARI expects further volatility in equity markets throughout 2022 as investors balance the effects of higher inflation, ongoing supply chain disruptions and increasing policy tightening actions from the US Fed. Relatively high stock valuations in growth and long-duration cash flow technology stocks could also add to meaningful market movements.
- Risks ARI is Monitoring...1. Higher/permanent inflation and higher interest rates, 2. Spread and seriousness of Omicron COVID variant, 3. Relatively high equity market valuations, 4. Issues with China: (i) US-China tensions, (ii) China domestic policy scrutiny and, (iii) Chinese real estate and property financial deleveraging. 5. Supply chain disruptions, rising raw material costs. 6. Investor rotation to cyclicals, energy, financials from growth and long-duration technology stocks.
- Portfolio Positioning... The account divested two positions during the period, the Japanese medical company M3, due to concerns over high valuation and Wuxi Apptec due to potential regulatory risks between US China. Proceeds were used to initiate a new position in Nestle while weight was added to existing position, Infosys. As equity markets face uncertainties, ARI believes that investing in companies that have a clear growth path, funded by internally generated cashflow, relatively lower balance sheet leverage and strong market position offers a favorable risk/reward versus the broader market. ARI has seen market volatility and temporary sector rotations in the past, and continues to stick to its investment process.



### **Statement of Performance**

For the Period: February 01, 2022 - February 14, 2022

Account No: U19A104

**Custodian Account No: NOTR** 

#### **Account Activity Summary**

Fund Balance Details:

Contribution Since Inception <sup>1</sup>	Beginning Market Value	Contributions/ (Redemptions)	Portfolio Profit/(Loss)	Gross Ending Market Value	Management Fees	Net Market Value
\$26,680,897.69 <sup>2</sup>	\$31,262,804.07	\$0.00	(\$1,040,609.00)	\$30,222,195.07	\$0.00	\$30,222,195.07

Contribution/(Redemption) Details

Date Activity Amount
Description

Account Performance Summary	MTD %	QTD %	YTD %	One Year %	Since Inception <sup>1</sup> %	
Strategy: U19A104	Gross	-3.33%	-13.60%	-13.60%	-15.67%	7.81%
	Net	-3.33%	-13.60%	-13.60%	-16.00%	7.41%
Benchmark : MSCI AC World ExUS I	NTR INDEX	2.60%	-1.18%	-1.18%	0.63%	9.86%

Note: Unless specifically noted, the performance shown reflect the deduction for management fees, accrued performance allocations, all expenses of the strategy/account, net interest and the reinvestment of dividends, and include gains or losses from "new issues," if any. Actual returns for a particular investor will vary depending upon, among other things, the level of fees charged, whether such investor participates in new issues and the timing of subscriptions and redemptions. In the event of any discrepancy between the information contained herein and the information contained in an investor's monthly account statement, the latter shall govern.

- 1. Inception Date: February 01, 2020.
- 2. Initial contribution made on January 17, 2020.

All amounts reflected in USD



#### As of: 14 February, 2022

## **Holdings Report**

<b>Security Description</b>	Security Type	% of Fund	Quantity	Share Listing Price Currency	Book Mkt Value Value	Book Mkt Value Value	% Div Yield
	-71-			·	(In Local Currency)	(In Fund Currency)	

Account No: ZZU19A104

Custodian Account No: NOTR

FC - Fund Currency USD

#### **Net Assets**

#### **Cash and Due Upon Settlement**

#### **United States**

Cash	Currencies	3.0 %	911,854	0.00	USD	911,854	911,854	911,854	911,854	
Total for United States		3.0 %						911,854	911,854	
Total for Cash and Due Upon Settlement		3.0 %					-	911,854	911,854	
Investments										
Australia										
CSL LTD REA GROUP LTD	Equity Equity	1.1 % 2.6 %	1,925 8,113	243.56 135.44	AUD AUD	584,492 935,211	468,853 1,098,825	401,839 642,957	333,917 782,583	1.2 % 1.0 %
Total for Australia		3.7 %						1,044,796	1,116,500	
Canada										
CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY LTD THOMSON REUTERS CORP SHOPIFY INC - CLASS A	Equity Equity Equity	1.7 % 2.2 % 2.6 %	7,114 6,637 932	91.61 129.58 1,078.95	CAD CAD CAD	598,035 996,451 587,523	651,714 860,022 1,005,581	459,025 782,918 441,304	511,871 675,481 789,806	0.8 % 1.6 %
CONSTELLATION SOFTWARE INC	Equity	4.5 %	814	2,126.35	CAD	1,197,929	1,730,849	929,163	1,359,448	0.2 %
Total for Canada		11.0 %						2,612,410	3,336,606	
China										
YUM CHINA HOLDINGS INC JD.COM INC - CL A	Equity Equity	1.4 % 1.6 %	8,500 13,100	391.60 289.60	HKD HKD	4,168,454 3,471,797	3,328,600 3,793,760	536,597 447,045	426,552 486,161	1.0 %

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### As of: 14 February, 2022

# **Holdings Report**

<b>Security Description</b>	Security Type	% of Fund	Quantity	Share Price	Listing Currency	Book Value	Mkt Value	Book Value	Mkt Value	% Div Yield
						(In Loca	l Currency)	(In Fund	Currency)	
BYD CO LTD-H	Equity	2.0 %	20,337	235.40	HKD	6,180,161	4,787,330	794,397	613,485	0.1 %
Total for China		5.0 %						1,778,039	1,526,198	
Denmark										
NOVO NORDISK A/S-B DSV Panalpina A/S	Equity Equity	1.7 % 3.4 %	5,380 5,395	643.10 1,261.00	DKK DKK	2,002,401 5,437,631	3,459,878 6,803,095	302,560 856,313	525,075 1,032,446	1.5 % 0.3 %
Total for Denmark		5.2 %	-,					1,158,873	1,557,521	
France										
L'OREAL	Equity	1.5 %	1,134	353.10	EUR	358,462	400,415	434,887	452,309	1.1 %
PERNOD RICARD SA	Equity	2.3 % 3.4 %	3,193	190.25	EUR EUR	547,182	607,468	606,989	686,196	1.6 %
TELEPERFORMANCE AIRBUS SE	Equity Equity	3.4 %	2,800 8,416	320.40 116.30	EUR	637,849 838,500	897,120 978,781	707,566 1,019,575	1,013,387 1,105,631	0.7 %
LVMH MOET HENNESSY LOUIS VUI	Equity	3.7 %	1,497	670.00	EUR	640,242	1,002,990	709,369	1,132,978	1.0 %
Total for France		14.5 %						3,478,386	4,390,500	
Germany										
ZALANDO SE	Equity	1.4 %	5,969	61.72	EUR	586,328	368,407	714,357	416,152	
Total for Germany		1.4 %						714,357	416,152	
India										
ICICI BANK LTD-SPON ADR	Equity	1.4 %	21,808	19.62	USD	422,377	427,873	422,377	427,873	0.3 %
INFOSYS LTD-SP ADR	Equity	3.1 %	42,503	22.19	USD	971,088	943,142	971,088	943,142	1.8 %
HDFC BANK LTD-ADR	Equity	3.5 %	16,021	65.94	USD	988,738	1,056,425	988,738	1,056,425	0.4 %
Total for India		8.0 %						2,382,203	2,427,439	
Indonesia										
BANK RAKYAT INDONESIA PERSER	Equity	3.0 %	2,971,100	4,410.00	IDR	13,875,439,58513	3,102,551,000	1,017,336	914,599	2.2 %
Total for Indonesia		3.0 %						1,017,336	914,599	
Japan										
DAIKIN INDUSTRIES LTD	Equity	2.2 %	3,600	21,530.00	JPY	57,266,619	77,508,000	519,849	670,542	0.8 %

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### As of: 14 February, 2022

# **Holdings Report**

Security Description	Security Type	% of Fund	Quantity	Share Price	Listing Currency	Book Value	Mkt Value	Book Value	Mkt Value	% Div Yield
						(In Local Currency)		(In Fund Currency)		
RECRUIT HOLDINGS CO LTD	Equity	3.4 %	20,500	5,764.00	JPY	86,530,277	118,162,000	785,496	1,022,251	0.4 %
Total for Japan		5.6 %						1,305,346	1,692,793	
Mexico										
WALMART DE MEXICO SAB DE CV	Equity	3.0 %	257,848	72.76	MXN	15,818,295	18,761,020	829,813	917,750	2.2 %
Total for Mexico		3.0 %						829,813	917,750	
Netherlands										
ASML HOLDING NV KONINKLIJKE DSM NV	Equity Equity	3.2 % 3.6 %	1,528 6,118	559.70 159.15	EUR EUR	431,088 678,467	855,222 973,680	473,209 752,624	966,058 1,099,869	0.6 % 1.5 %
Total for Netherlands		6.8 %						1,225,833	2,065,927	
New Zealand										
FISHER & PAYKEL HEALTHCARE C	Equity	2.9 %	47,767	26.08	AUD	1,025,086	1,245,763	704,746	887,233	1.4 %
Total for New Zealand		2.9 %						704,746	887,233	
Poland										
DINO POLSKA SA	Equity	2.9 %	12,384	281.50	PLN	1,950,355	3,486,096	510,310	865,294	
Total for Poland		2.9 %						510,310	865,294	
Singapore										
SEA LTD-ADR	Equity	1.3 %	3,023	129.17	USD	678,395	390,481	678,395	390,481	
Total for Singapore		1.3 %						678,395	390,481	
Sweden										
ATLAS COPCO AB-A SHS	Equity	3.3 %	18,912	497.60	SEK	10,213,981	9,410,611	1,203,879	1,001,960	1.5 %
Total for Sweden		3.3 %						1,203,879	1,001,960	
Switzerland										
LONZA GROUP AG-REG NESTLE SA-REG	Equity Equity	2.7 % 3.1 %	1,272 7,493	603.00 117.30	CHF CHF	762,567 844,642	767,016 878,929	816,575 889,540	828,490 949,372	0.5 % 2.3 %
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# **Holdings Report**

As of: 14 February, 2022

<b>Security Description</b>	Security Type	% of Fund	Quantity	Share Price	Listing Currency	Book Value	Mkt Value	Book Value	Mkt Value	% Div Yield
	-,,p-				•	(In Loca	(In Local Currency)		(In Fund Currency)	
SIKA AG-REG	Equity	3.8 %	3,578	296.10	CHF	649,965	1,059,446	670,876	1,144,357	0.8 %
Total for Switzerland		9.7 %						2,376,991	2,922,219	
Taiwan										
TAIWAN SEMICONDUCTOR-SP ADR	Equity	3.9 %	9,944	119.77	USD	574,388	1,190,993	574,388	1,190,993	1.6 %
Total for Taiwan		3.9 %						574,388	1,190,993	
United Kingdom										
LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE GROUP DIAGEO PLC	Equity Equity	2.0 % 3.6 %	6,467 22,165	6,874.00 3,632.00	GBP GBP	495,202 730,571	444,542 805,033	644,456 950,765	601,287 1,088,887	1.1 % 2.0 %
Total for United Kingdom		5.6 %	·	-				1,595,222	1,690,174	
Total for Investments		97.0 %					-	25,191,323	29,310,342	
Total for Net Assets		100.0 %					-	26,103,176	30,222,195	
Total for N0TR		100.0 %					-	26,103,176	30,222,195	

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Total for USD

For the Period: 1 February, 2022 - 28 February, 2022

## **Transaction Report**

Transaction Type	Description	Quantity	Trade Date	Settlement Date	Price	Cashflow	Notes
Account No: 1 Custodian Acc	U19A104 ount No: NOTR						
USD							
IntIncomeNonTrading	United States Dollar	40.14	01 Feb 2022	01 Feb 2022	1.0000 USD	40.14	Interest income

40.14

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