

# Growth amid discord:

strategies for a “rule-breaking” expansion

## OUR EXPECTATIONS AND PORTFOLIO INSIGHTS

### Global economic growth and rising corporate profits

- Having already defied recession signals, global growth may continue in 2025 and 2026
- Earnings per share may increase further in the U.S. and elsewhere
- Fed interest rates could decline modestly to 3.5%–4% in 2025
- Risks include renewed inflation, trade tensions and other geopolitical strains

### Position fully invested portfolios for ongoing upside

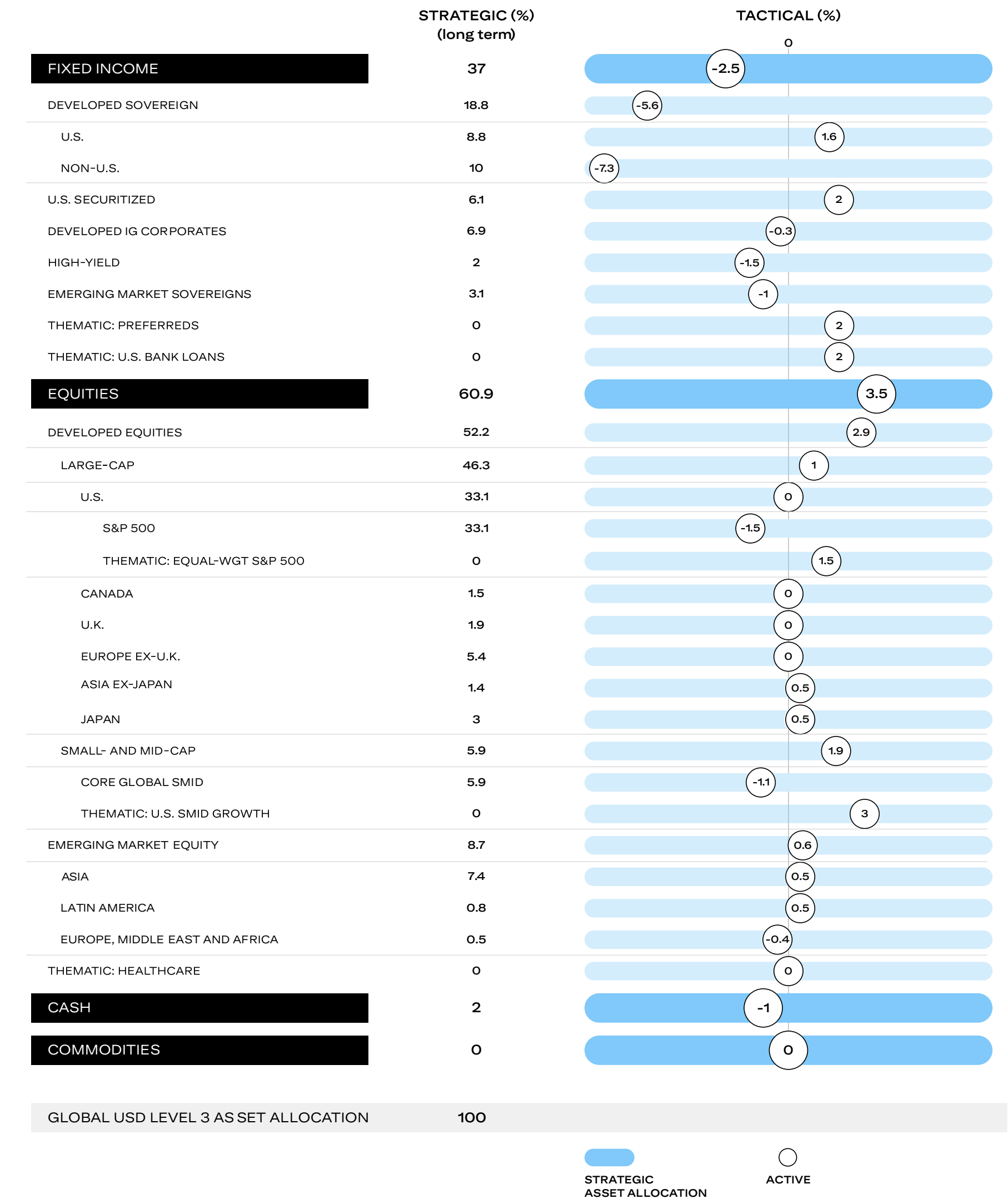
- Core portfolios following a long-term plan are essential, in our view
- By contrast, market timing seldom delivers results

### OUR REAL GDP FORECASTS (%)

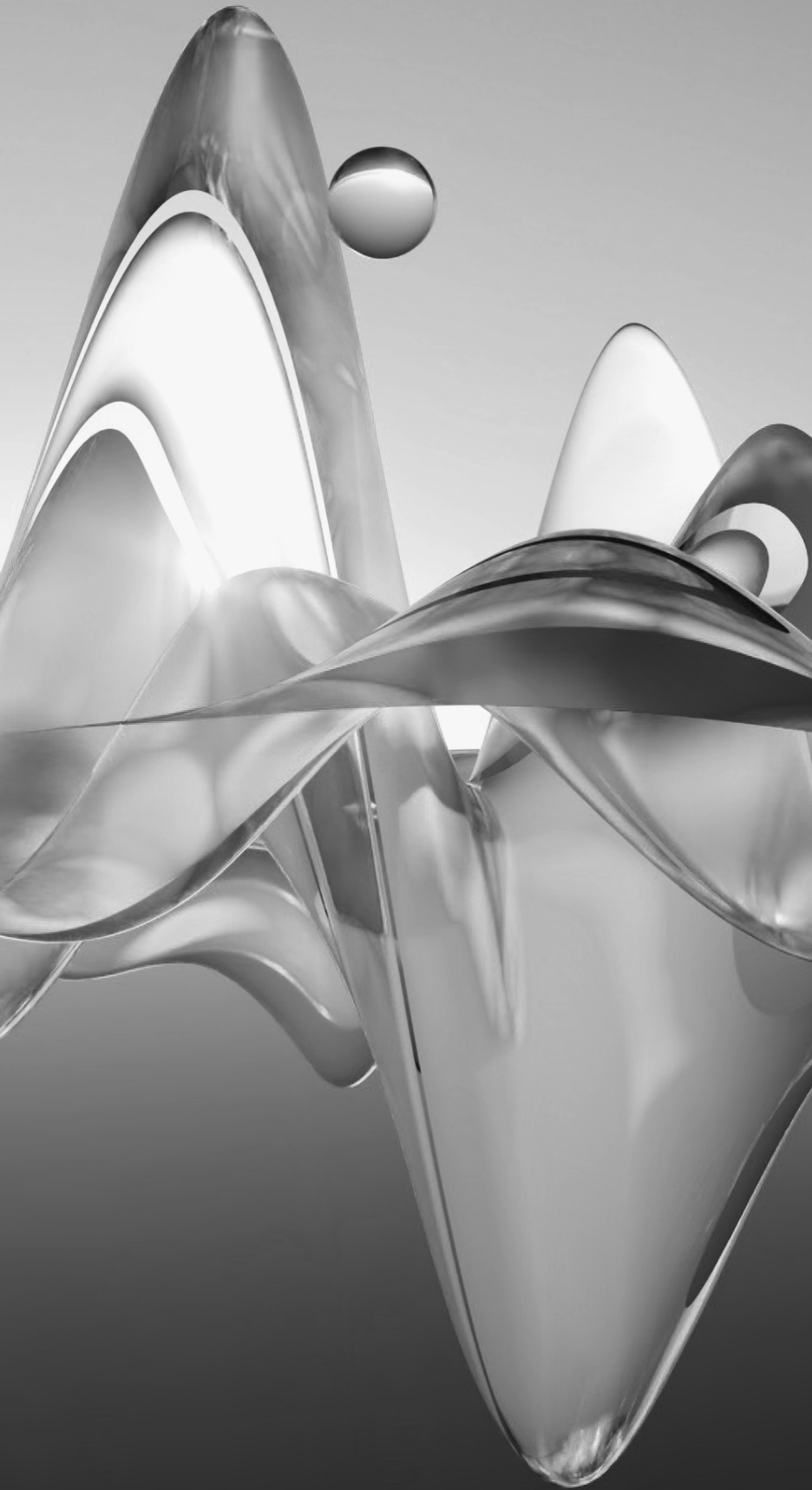
	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E
U.S.	2.5	2.7 ↑	2.4 ↑	2.1
China	5.2	4.9 ↓	5.2 ↑	4.8
E.U.	0.5	0.7	1.2 ↓	1.6
U.K.	0.3	1.0 ↑	1.1 ↓	1.5
<b>Global</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.9 ↑</b>	<b>2.9</b>

Source: Citi Wealth Investments, as of Nov 16, 2024. All forecasts are expressions of opinion and are subject to change without notice and are not intended to be a guarantee of future events.

## ASSET CLASSES | GLOBAL USD LEVEL 3 ASSET ALLOCATION (%)



Source: Citi Wealth Investments Global Investment Committee and Citi Wealth Strategic Asset Allocation and Quantitative Research Team, as of Nov 19, 2024. The above table is an example for educational and illustration purposes only and does not constitute a portfolio recommendation. It was generated without taking into account any individual's specific circumstances or requirements. Investors looking to develop their portfolio should contact their Citi representative for further guidance. Risk 3 is designed for investors with a blended objective who require a mix of assets and seek a balance between investments that offer income and those positioned for a potentially higher return on investment. Risk 3 may be appropriate for investors willing to subject their portfolio to additional risk for potential growth in addition to a level of income reflective of his/her stated risk tolerance. The asset classes used to populate the allocation model may underperform their respective indices and lead to lower performance than the model anticipates.



Many investors' portfolios are too concentrated

- Excessive focus on a single market or asset class is very common
- This is especially true in U.S. large-cap equities, which may not do as well in the next decade as in the last
- However, valuations suggest potential benefits from greater diversification
- We see many suitable and qualified investors with little or no exposure to alternative asset classes
- Diversification does not guarantee a profit nor protect against losses

► Broaden portfolio horizons

- S&P equal weight, U.S. small- and mid-cap growth equities, Asia ex-China, Brazil
- Diversified intermediate investment grade credit and beyond
- Suitable and qualified investors might consider expanding into alternatives

Returns on cash will likely disappoint

- Bank deposits and Treasury bills may prove less rewarding amid modest Fed rate cuts
- We make the case for a diversified fixed income portfolio with intermediate duration
- U.S. investment grade credit may offer more potential than U.S. Treasuries

► Put cash to work and seek differentiated yield

- Credit could serve as a core fixed income allocation
- Lower-quality credit, bank loans, structured credit, preferreds
- Risks include recession, repayment, liquidity and interest rates

Deregulation may be coming in the U.S.

- President-elect Trump promised deregulation in his election campaign
- This could lower costs and open up potential growth for some financials
- In energy, more drilling, pipelines and demand for equipment and services might follow

► Seek exposure to deregulation's potential beneficiaries

- U.S. banks could gain from easing regulations
- Midstream energy companies may benefit from more capital spending on natural gas export capacity
- Such changes may not occur, and deregulation can increase certain risks

Geopolitical discord may spark volatility

- Trade disputes and other geopolitical challenges could unleash higher volatility
- Most geopolitical incidents do not change global markets' direction, however
- Portfolios concentrated in a region at the epicenter of tensions are more at risk

► Managing risk amid discord

- Economic security and national security investments, e.g., key technologies, defense, and cybersecurity
- Select hedge funds strategies and volatility related investments might be worth considering for suitable and qualified investors



*where wealth happens*

*Unstoppable trends*

Long-term forces – technological, economic, demographic and geopolitical – are reshaping the world around us, with implications for every investment portfolio.



AI: getting more real

We believe AI adoption and benefits will spread increasingly beyond the technology sector to the likes of healthcare, industrials, financial services, education technology and robotics.



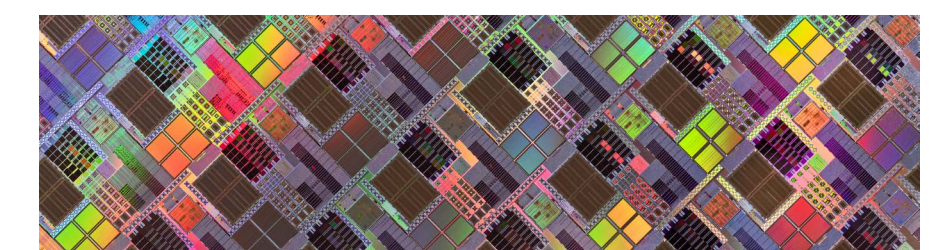
Climate: investing in innovative technologies

Emissions reduction, carbon capture and climate change adaptation technologies may see increasing demand, creating potential for providers and users.



Healthcare's prescription for longevity

With populations aging rapidly worldwide, there is a growing need to prevent as well as treat later-life illnesses. Healthcare innovators are addressing this challenge.



G2 polarization

Competitive tensions between the U.S. and China are set to continue, with supply chains likely to shift in favor of certain sectors and industries in Southeast Asia, Latin America and the U.S.

*What next for Asia Pacific?*

We expect resilient regional economic growth in 2025. China's cyclical recovery may gain momentum, possibly helped by further stimulus. We see potential in Indian, Japanese and select Southeast Asian equity markets. Tariffs, high Indian valuations and slowing growth are among the risks.

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Changes in Regulatory or Tax Treatment of Energy Related MLPs. If the IRS changes the current tax treatment of the master limited partnerships included in the Basket of Energy Related MLPs thereby subjecting them to higher rates of taxation, or if other regulatory authorities enact regulations which negatively affect the ability of the master limited partnerships to generate income or distribute dividends to holders of common units, the return on the Notes, if any, could be dramatically reduced. Investment in a basket of Energy Related MLPs may expose the investor to concentration risk due to industry, geographical, political, and regulatory concentration.

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Additionally, the underlying collateral supporting non-Agency MBS may default on principal and interest payments. In certain cases, this could cause the income stream of the security to decline and result in loss of principal. Further, an insufficient level of credit support may result in a downgrade of a mortgage bond’s credit rating and lead to a higher probability of principal loss and increased price volatility. Investments in subordinated MBS involve greater credit risk of default than the senior classes of the same issue. Default risk may be pronounced in cases where the MBS security is secured by, or evidencing an interest in, a relatively small or less diverse pool of underlying mortgage loans.

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- loss of all or a substantial portion of the investment due to leveraging, short-selling, or other speculative practices;
- lack of liquidity in that there may be no secondary market for the fund and none is expected to develop;
- volatility of returns;
- restrictions on transferring interests in the Fund;
- potential lack of diversification and resulting higher risk due to concentration of trading authority when a single advisor is utilized;
- absence of information regarding valuations and pricing;
- complex tax structures and delays in tax reporting;
- less regulation and higher fees than mutual funds; and
- manager risk.

Individual funds will have specific risks related to their investment programs that will vary from fund to fund.

Asset allocation does not assure a profit or protect against a loss in declining financial markets.

Diversification does not guarantee a profit or protect against loss. Different asset classes present different risks.

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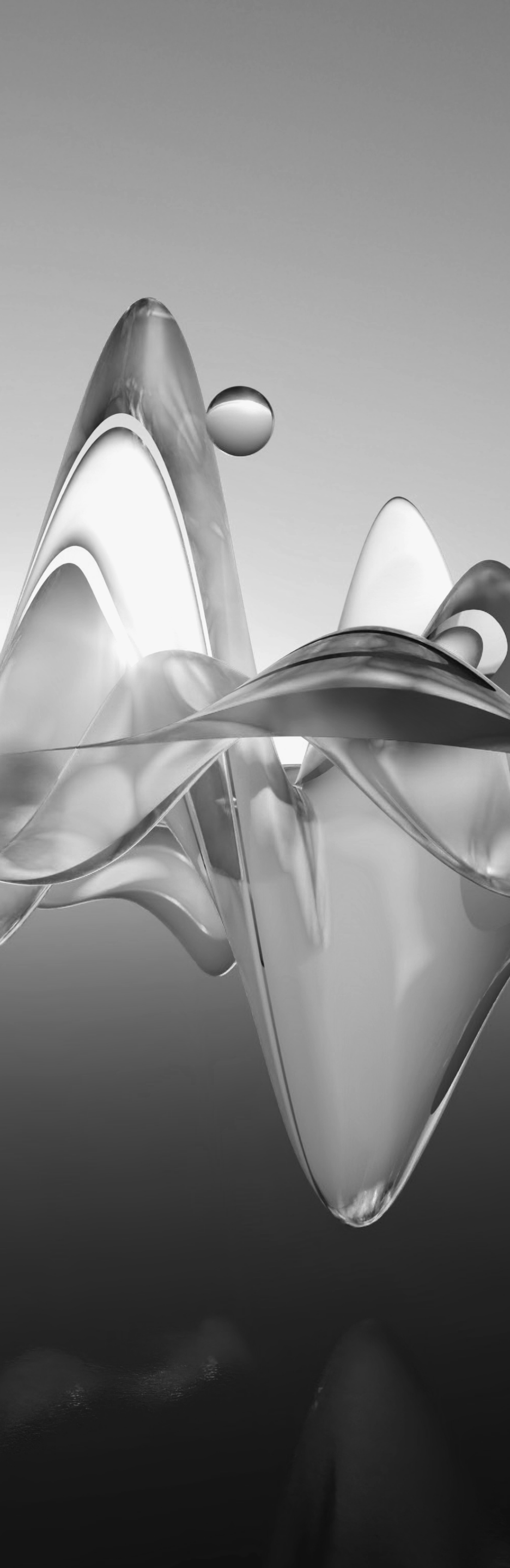
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