



**THE AUSTERITY  
KITCHEN**  
BY CHRISTINE  
BAUMGARTHUBER

Where the alimentary is  
elementary.

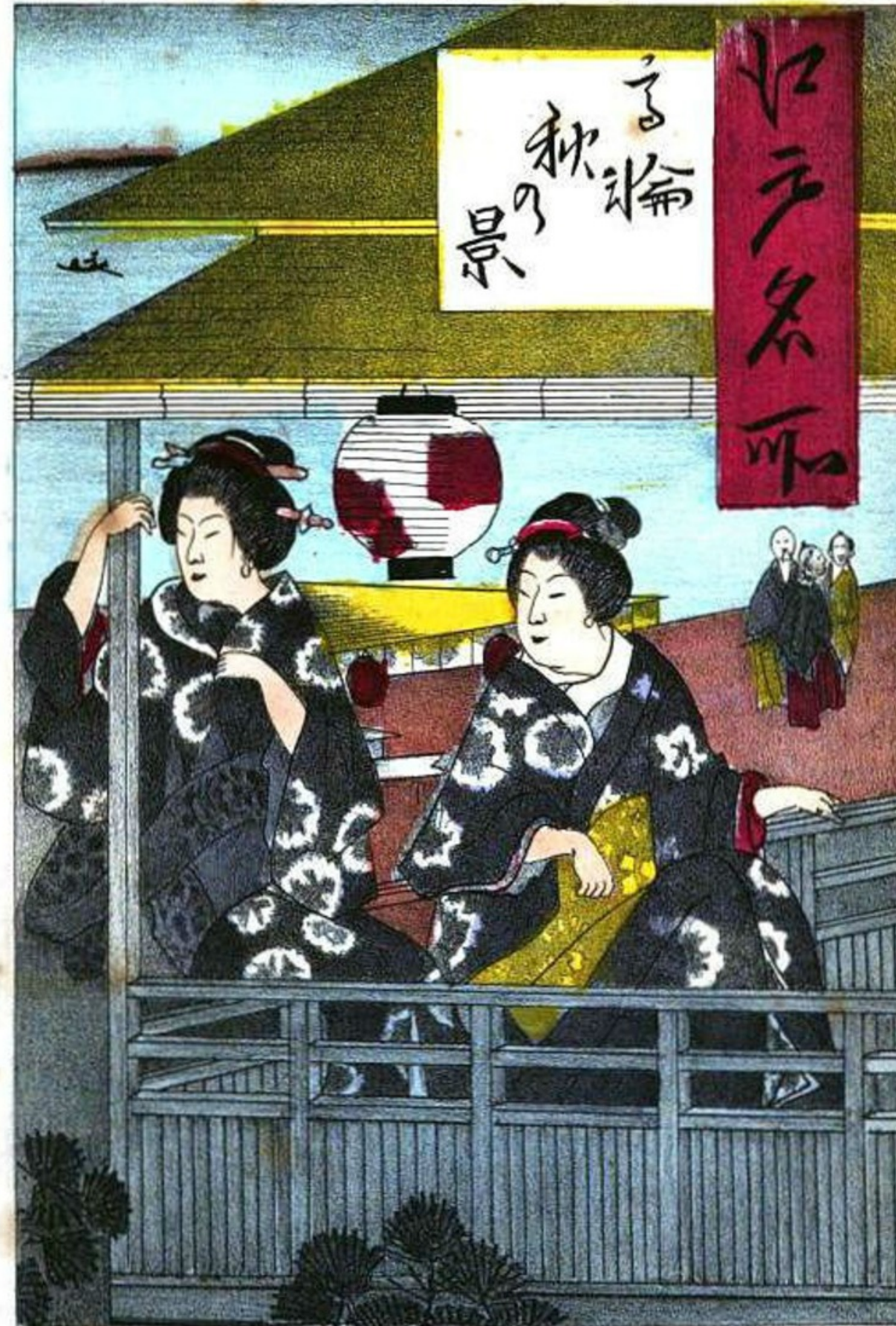


Previously by  
CHRISTINE BAUMGARTHUBER

*Coweye Burgers and  
Plastic Malts*  
*Dinner with Caligula*  
*A Contrary Image of  
Steaming Excrement*

## A work of art by any standards ...

By CHRISTINE BAUMGARTHUBER



TEA-HOUSE ON THE TOKAIDO,  
OR GREAT HIGHWAY OF THE EMPIRE.  
(FROM A NATIVE DRAWING.)

“Not a single Western food has a color that could be called beautiful — the only exceptions I can think of are salad and radishes. I’m in no position to speak of its nutritional value, but to the artist’s eye it is a thoroughly uncivilized cuisine. On the other hand, artistically speaking, everything on a Japanese menu, from the soups to the hors d’oeuvres to the raw fish, is beautifully conceived. If you did no more than gaze at the banquet tray set before you at an elegant restaurant, without lifting a chopstick, and then go home again, the feast for the eyes would have been more than sufficient to make the visit worth your while.” — Natsume Soseki, *Kusamakura* (1906)



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Illustration from *China and Japan: Being a Narrative of the Cruise of the U.S. Steam-Frigate Powhatan, in the Years 1857, '58, '59, and '60* (1861)