

# Tampa Friends, Tokyo Tomodachi

1991, redux 2012

Jacob Schere



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Tampa Friends, Tokyo Tomodachi  
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### **About the Author**

Jacob Schere is a self styled freewalking image gathering expressionista known for his photographic discovery of unnoticed beauty in the everyday world. Whether its Tokyo, NYC, Miami or Paris, Jacob's photographs reveal beauty in the haunted concrete fluorescent madhouse that is known as the modern city. His photographic expressions have appeared in publications throughout the world.

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Friends come in go out of our lives. Sometimes I used to think that our friendship would last till the end of time, but it usually doesn't work out that way. Friends have crossed my path when I needed them most. They appear out of a flash of light, a moment, to be there to lend their friendship, and sometimes flourish, grow apart or utterly vanish.

Those were the wild and carefree Tampa, Florida days. Already by the time these photographs had been taken, some people had moved on from the Tampa area. I considered these friends as my family. We cooked, went canoeing down the Hillsborough River, made trips across the bay to Fort Desoto State park all together. The blue soulful skies never ended, and the reasoning never ceased. We were always together because that's what close-knit families do.

I hazily remember staying up to all hours of the night and watching the candles melt in slow motion over at Jahn and Christopher's one room apartment. They had converted into two bedrooms with Christopher sleeping in the living room with sheets strung up for privacy. They were right on the corner across from the Bush Gardens tourist trap. Hard to believe looking back on them all now, but what did we know. It was creating our own community that was important.

Can't quite recall how I meet Elizabeth and when she joined our little community. Elizabeth and I both were attending the University of South Florida together. She and Jahn even hooked up at one point but it didn't last that long.

I miss those deep discussions, those days when all we had money to do was eat spaghetti with tomato sauce, and cheap French bread from Publix. Again none of this really mattered to us. The bonds that I had formed I thought would never be broken.

Two from that small community had already made their way back to their native home of Tokyo. At one point I was pretty much never without Tetsuya, my soul brother, and Yoshinori the older brother I never had. I was fortunate in 1991 to spend a summer vacation in Tokyo. Yoshinori hooked me up with a job at the Big L Bar in Kinshicho as a bartender. I took on the secret identity as Akira Yoshino (Akira for my favorite manga, and Yoshino for my girlfriend's family name). Those were some insane days working with my family in the basement bar Big L. The Lotte building that housed the bar was knocked down a few years ago. All I have are my memories of that time and the film I shot. Most of the time it didn't feel like we were even working.

It felt like we were hanging out, talking with the customers, and being with each other.

Masami, an older man working at Big L, was a bartender who dreamed of guitars day and night. We would rent studio space and all jam together, I had to play on a drum kit since there were way to many guitarists in our little group. We jammed on *Tequila* and original tunes, *Deluxe Ska*, and *Kinshicho Blues*.

We performed as the Big L Band on the eve of my 20th birthday. To turn 20 and be free and roaming in the streets of Tokyo were some of my happiest days. Little did I know that less than 10 years later I would be calling Tokyo home for good.

Friends have a habit of entering into your life when they are needed most, and often when their work is done, they will drift on out again. I miss many of them. I still keep searching for Christopher, the most polite and the most courteous man I have ever known. I know Christopher is out there somewhere.

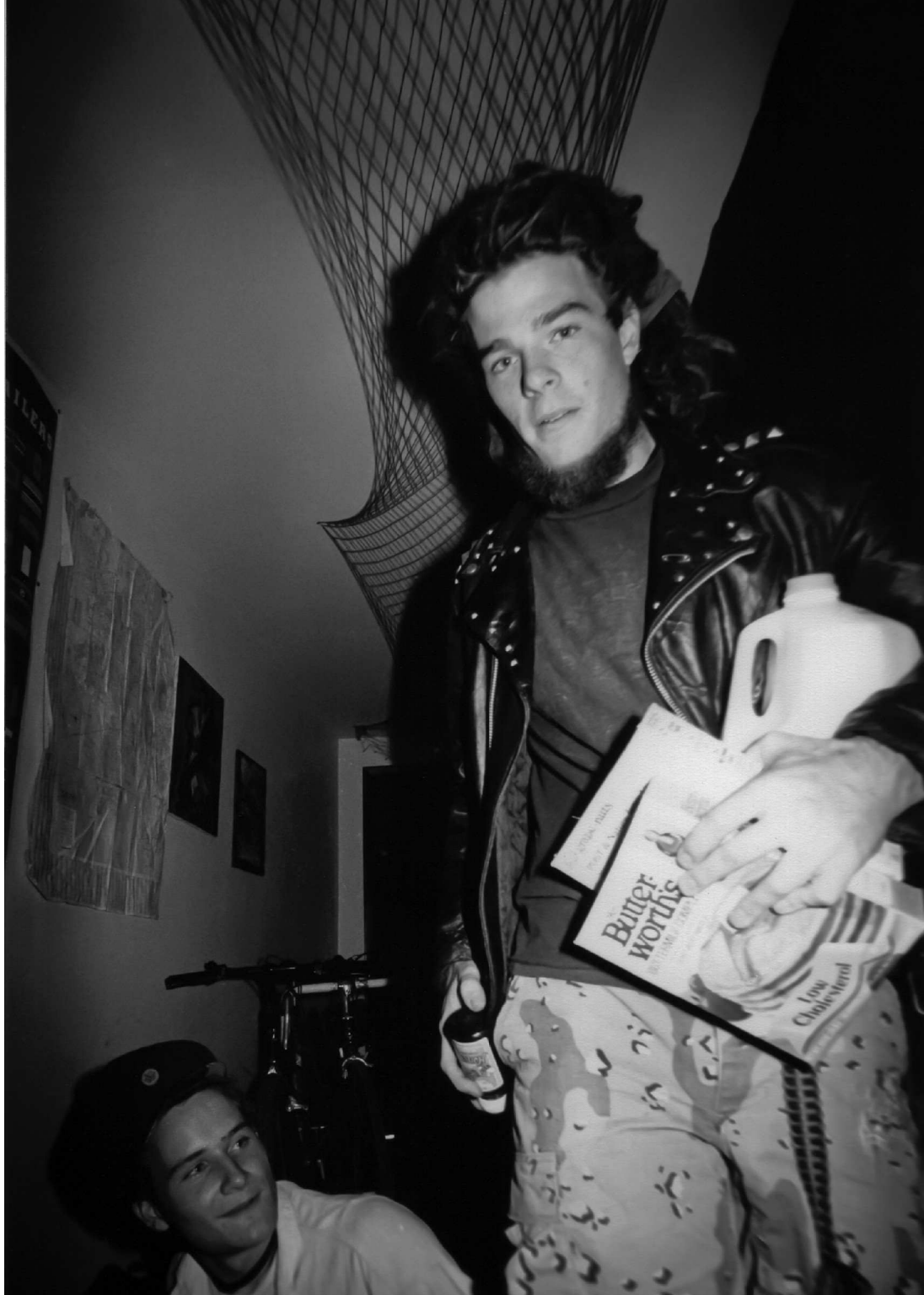
I have them all in my heart and on the silver halides prints I developed back in the USF university's darkroom. I know where some of them are, and some I have lost; however, for me as a photographer these images serve my memory well. The photographs have their own energy of frozen youthful moments.

Jacob Schere  
October, 2012

**Tampa, Florida 1991**



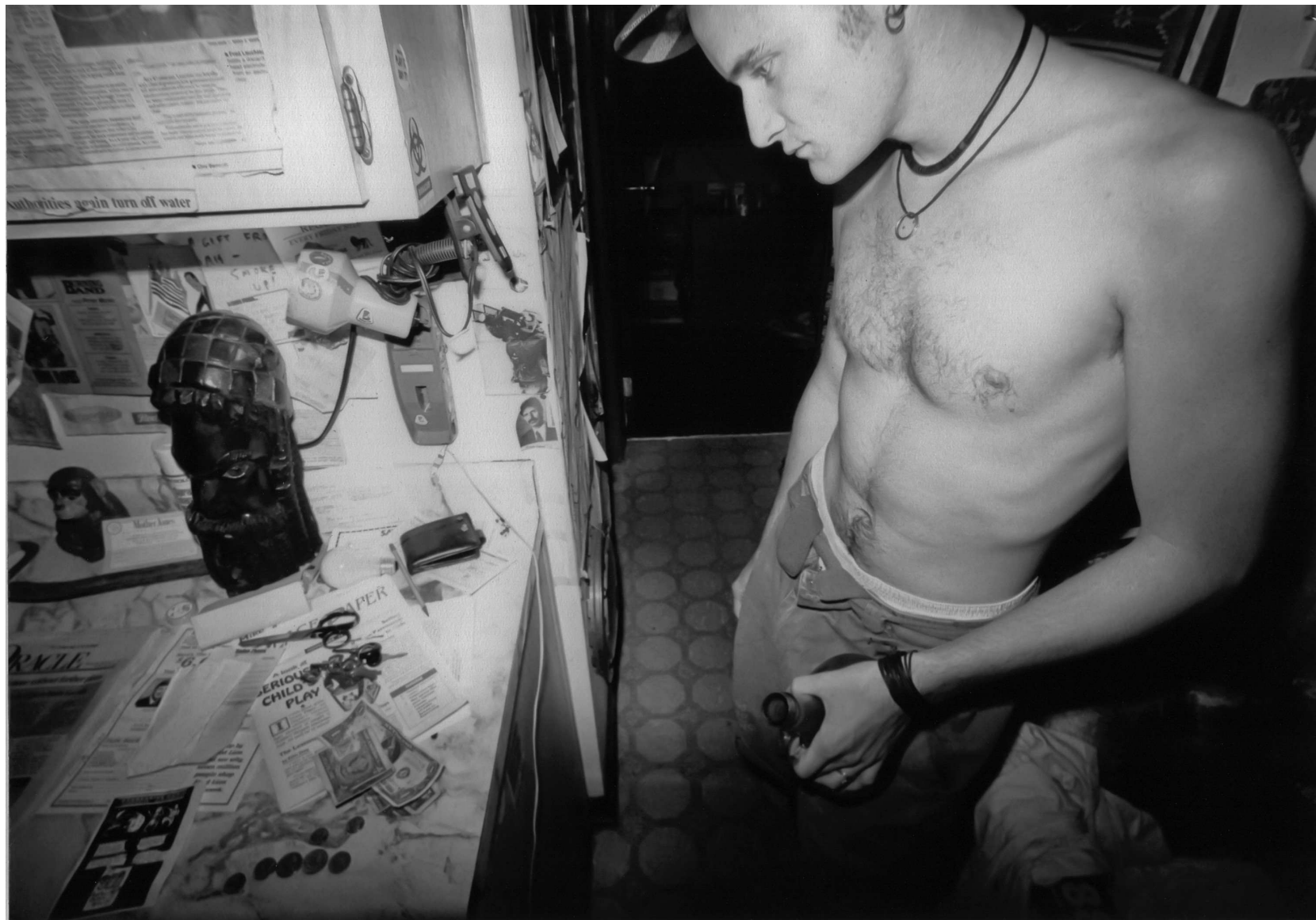
















Tokyo, Japan 1991







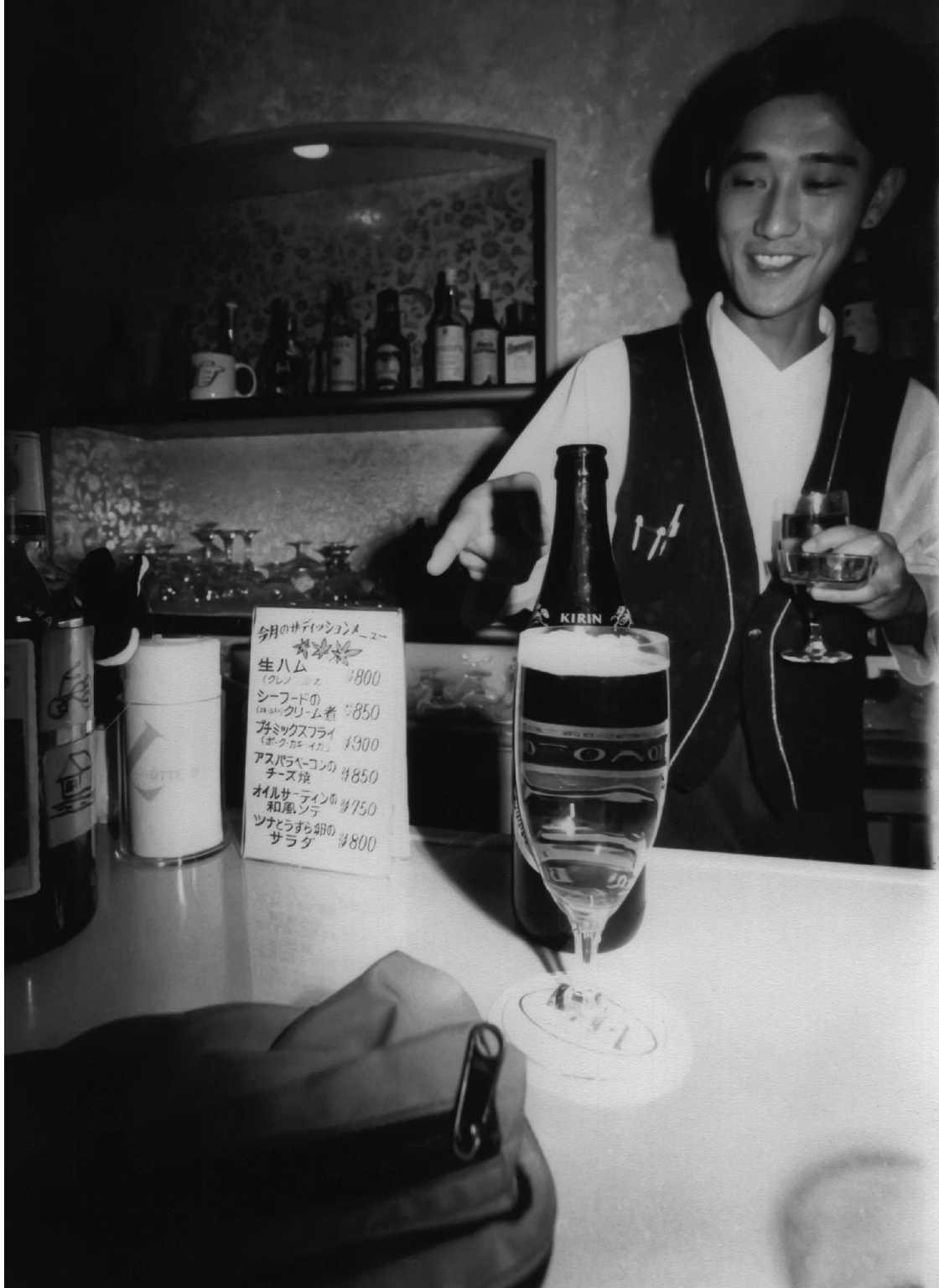












今月のサテイヤシヨムメニュー  
★  
生ハム  
100g ¥800  
シーフードの  
クリーム煮 ¥850  
チキンフライ  
¥900  
アスパラベーコンの  
チーズ焼 ¥850  
オイルサーティンの  
和風ソテー ¥750  
ツナとすずらんの  
サラダ ¥800







ご飯物

うどん	700
そば	650
うどんそば	1,000
うどん	950
カルビうどん	800
うどん	800
うどん	800
うどん	750
うどん	750
うどん	750









I must give a special thanks to my dear friends who made my life more joyous having them in it. Tetsuya, Yoshinori, Jahn, Christopher, Masami, and Elizabeth. Part of the artist, the man, that I have become today is because of all the love and friendship I have shared with all of you.





