



Volume

One

“The Yellow Book” was an influential British quarterly illustrated magazine published in the 1890s. Devoted to art and literature, it featured a wide range of genres from short stories and essays to illustrations and portraits. The yellow cover, associated with illicit French novels at the time, was accredited to its first Art Editor, Aubrey Beardsley, who was notorious for his controversial, grotesque and decadent works.

This cocktail journey, through three chapters, takes inspiration from the influences on Aubrey Beardsley’s work, from aestheticism and ukiyo-e art genres to his personal and working relationships with the likes of Oscar Wilde and Edgar Allan Poe.

Chapter

One

Art Nouveau

In the late 1880s in England, although much of mainstream art and literature still upheld Victorian values and social order, an avant-garde movement of artists and writers began to criticise and satirise Victorian society. Aubrey Beardsley was an active participant in this and went on to become a heavy influence in the Art Nouveau movement. Through his sensational and symbolic style, Beardsley's work blurred gender lines, depicted vices and exposed societal contradictions.

The strong influence of Japonisme and Art Nouveau in Beardsley's controversial works went on to inspire generations of modern artists.

These signature cocktails pay homage to some of Aubrey Beardsley's most renowned influences and accomplishments in the Western world.



Peacock Room

Decorative Interior by James McNeill Whistler.

Referred to as a “masterpiece of interior decorative art”, The Peacock Room is one of the most well known works representing the Aesthetic movement. Aubrey Beardsley first visited this piece with his sister Mabel in 1891 in London. Beardsley’s “Peacock Skirt” is said to be his interpretation of Whistler’s “The Princess from the Land of Porcelain”, the centrepiece of The Peacock Room. Beardsley’s piece was given much praise but it also stirred controversy in the community.

“Things shape themselves before my eyes just as I draw them.” – Aubrey Beardsley

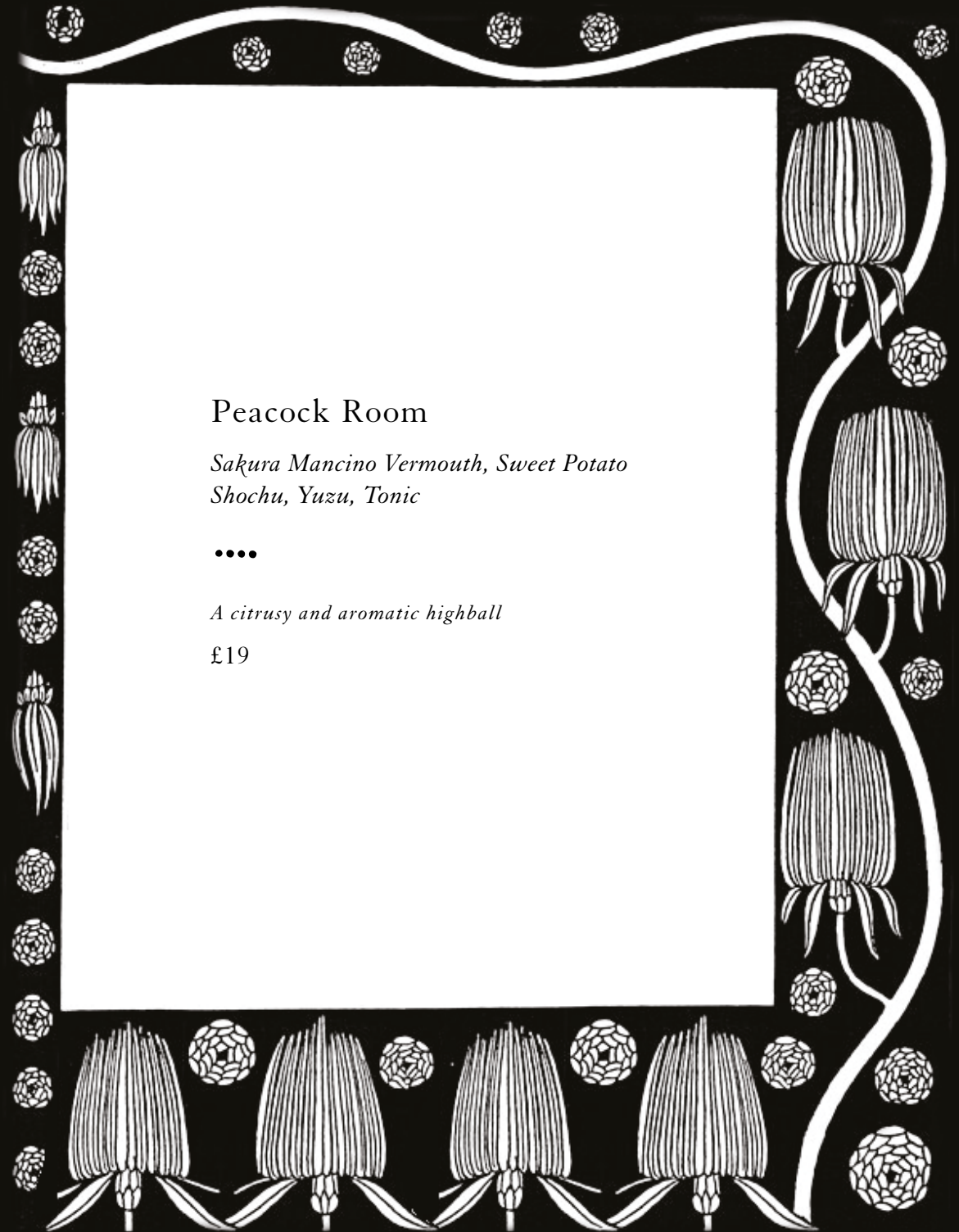
Peacock Room

*Sakura Mancino Vermouth, Sweet Potato
Shochu, Yuzu, Tonic*

••••

A citrusy and aromatic highball

£19



The Death of the Lion

1894 short story by Henry James.

First published in The Yellow Book, the editors bent the rules of short story writing, allowing James to expand his story beyond the usually strict length limitations.

“Could not something be done with the idea of the great (the distinguished, the celebrated) artist - man of letters he must, in the case, be - who is tremendously made up to, feted, written to for his autograph, portrait, etc., and yet with whose work, in this age of advertisement and newspaperism, this age of interviewing, not one of the persons concerned has the smallest acquaintance? It would have the merit, at least, of corresponding to an immense reality - a reality that strikes me every day of my life.” - Henry James

The Death of the Lion

*Ki No Bi Gin, Yuzu Liqueur,
Quinine & Lime Leaf Cordial*

••••

*Fresh and herbal this drink takes inspiration
from a classic gimlet with a yuzu twist*

£21



Salome

*Sake, Rice Shochu, Etsu Ocean Water,
Tomato Liqueur, Umami*

•••

*Strong and savoury, a perfect alternative
to the classic Dirty Martini*

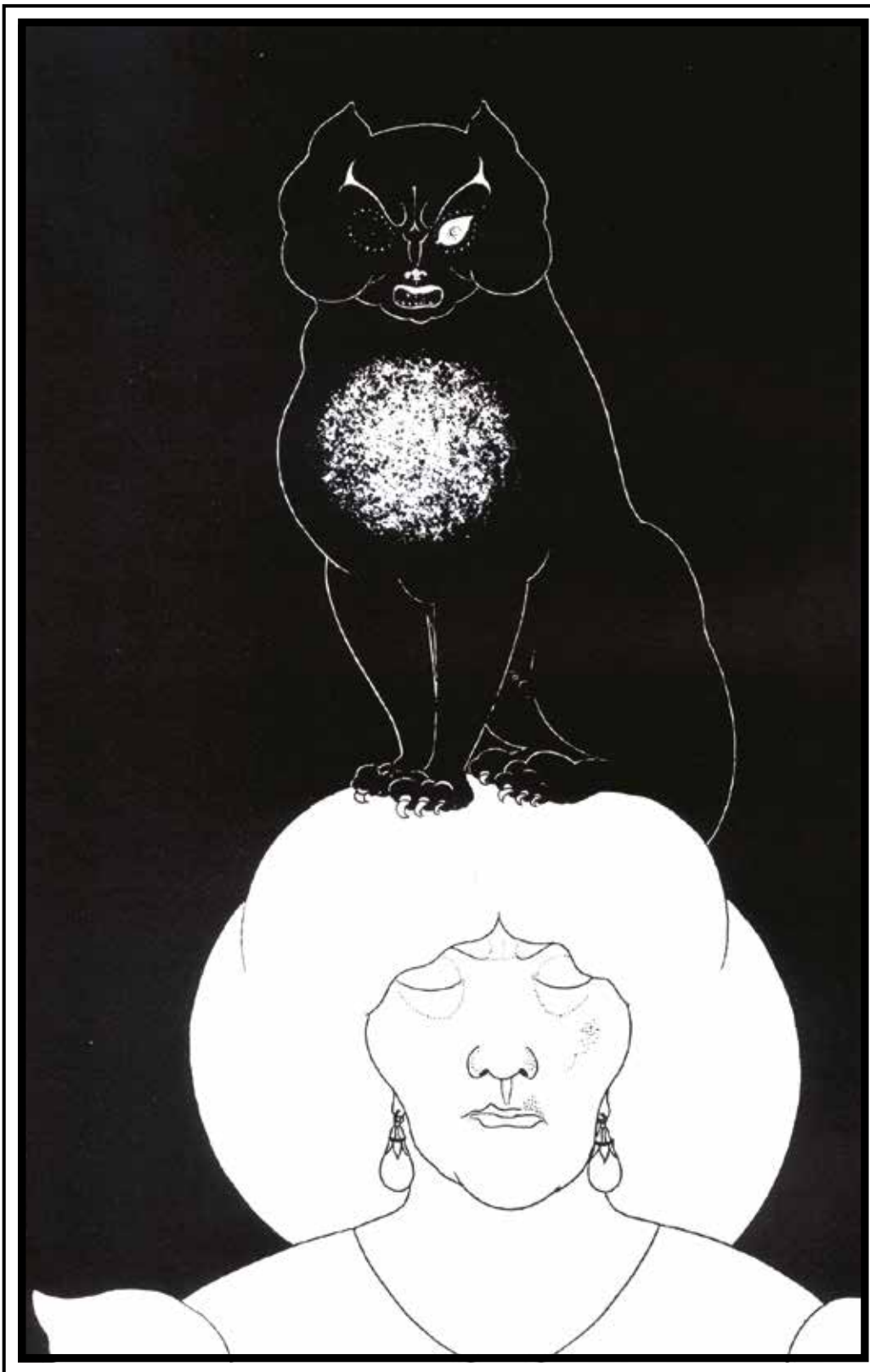
£19

A one-act tragedy by Oscar Wilde

The original version of the play was in French and during its translation into English in 1893, Beardsley was contracted to illustrate the scandalous drama. The illustrations weave together themes of sensuality and death, and was highly provocative. The play's publication created a sensation, just as Beardsley and Wilde had hoped.

The results of this collaboration made the friendship between the two quite tumultuous. Historically these two were described as close friends, but this closeness was deceptive. Those who knew and understood them recognised how very different their approaches to life and art were.

*"I have one aim – the grotesque. If I am not grotesque I am nothing."
– Aubrey Beardsley*



The Black Cat

*Teeda Rhum, Umeshu, Laphroaig,
Okinawa Sugar*

••••

*A twist on a classic old fashioned,
rich and complex with a hint of smoke*

£23

One of four drawings illustrating Edgar Allan Poe's "Tales of Mystery and the Imagination"

This illustrates Poe's story of a man who tries to cover up the murder of his wife by concealing her body in the wall. He is betrayed by the shrieks of his black cat, mistakenly enclosed in the wall as well. The furious one-eyed cat appears out of the darkness, its form outlined in white and starkly contrasting with the white of the dead woman's face.

"Who has not, a hundred times, found himself committing a vile or a silly action for no other reason than because he knows he should not?" – Edgar Allan Poe



Volpone

A comedy play by English playwright Ben Jonson

Originally produced in early 1600s, the play is a merciless satire of greed and lust. Beardsley was commissioned to illustrate a special edition in November of 1897 with 24 illustrations but died before being able to complete the project. However, it was considered a beautiful combination of the comedy of corruption and Beardsley's ability to depict both decadence and wickedness with a light touch.

"I carry Volpone about with me from dawn to dawn and dream of nothing else" – Aubrey Beardsley

Volpone

*Etsu Gin, Wasabi Liqueur,
Citrus, Soap Bark*

••••

*Creamy and aromatic, a twist
on a gin sour*

£18





La Mort D'Arthur

*Rise Shochu, Yellow Chartreuse, Clarified
Coconut & Pineapple*

••••

*Velvety and exotic with a round
and mellow flavour*

£19

15th Century Compilation by Thomas Malory

The illustration of this piece was Aubrey's first commission at the age of 19. It is here that his signature sensuous, decadent style began its development. The use of floral motifs and monochrome design begin to introduce the influence of Japanese woodblocks, and it's here we first see the introduction of his iconic initials in a Japanese-inspired mark.

"We shall now seek that which we shall not find." - Thomas Malory

Chapter
Two
*The 108 Heroes of the
Popular Suikoden*

PART 1

Utagawa Kuniyoshi



A Robin Hood-esque fable, the 108 Heroes of Suikoden was a story that gathered popularity in 19th century Japan. The characters and stories became a favoured subject for Japanese woodblock prints, which influence can be seen in Beardsley's work.

Embracing the Japanese culture of seasonality the following three drinks present the first installation of these warriors, centred around the delicately floral and aromatic pear.



Roshi

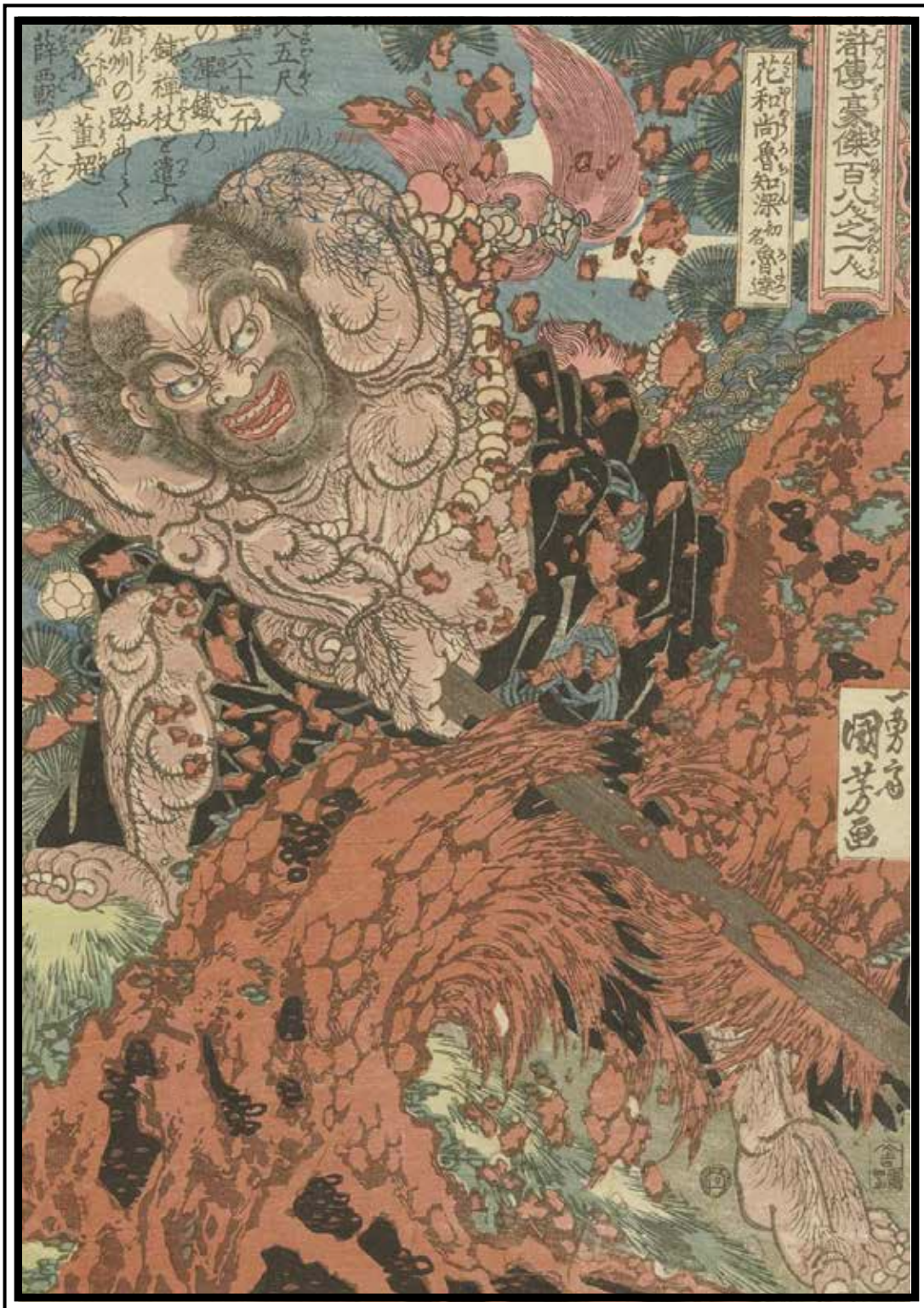
Kiyomi Rum, Pear Cordial, Dry Vermouth, Chocolate Bitters, Citric & Saline Solutions, Smoked Sakura Cherry Perfume

••••

Full body drink, round and mellow, with an intense long finish of dry fruits

£15

Rôshi Ensoe, wearing a loincloth and tattoos, on a roof by moonlight, hurling stones on a pursuing gang of thieves.



Rotatsu

*Ginger Toki Whiskey, Laphroaig 10,
Umeshu, Lemon, Honey, Pear,
Oolong Tea*

•••

*Refreshing, complex, slightly smoky
with toasted notes of Oolong Tea*

£15

*Kaoshō Rochishin (formerly called “Rotatsu”) is a monk turned brigand.
He is smashing through a pine trunk with his great iron club to intimidate
guards escorting Lin Chong into exile.*



Sotoki

*Etsu Pacific Gin, Fig Cordial, Lime,
Carbonated Salty Pear Juice*

•••

Savory, umami, sparkling

£15

Sôtôki Sôsei, bare-chested and tattooed, wielding a long pole, with kitchen utensils and provisions behind him.

Chapter

-Three-

The Japanese Ink in Aubrey's Pen

Originating from the urban culture of Edo from 17th to mid 19th century, Ukiyo-e is one of the most interesting styles of Japanese painting. Translating to “pictures of the floating world”, this style of art presents themes and scenes of kabuki plays and erotica. Aubrey Beardsley drew heavy influence from ukiyo-e, as can be seen in his use of sharp lines and contrast in black and white. He was often described as having ‘japanese ink in his pen’.

These six drinks draw inspiration from this, with the use of simple colours and contrast through the classic style of Japanese Highballs. A selection of whiskey and shochu highballs (chuhais) each represented by a piece of ukiyo-e influencing Beardsley's work.





Flowers of Edo

*Nikka From The Barrel, Housemade
Yuzu Soda*

••••

Fresh, sharp and aromatic

£24

"Flowers of Edo" by Kitagawa Utamaro. The use of fine, black lines and large black and white spaces dominate together to deliver the emotions and intensity of the characters depicted. Great similarities can be seen in Aubrey's work through "The Black Cape", illustrated for Oscar Wilde.



Obi

*Hatozaki Pure Malt,
Cold Brew Oolong Sparkling Tea*

••••

*Slightly roasted aroma of Oolong tTea,
herbal and smooth*

£21

After the Meiji era (1868-1912), Taisho Romanticism began to blossom, where Western tastes were incorporated into the traditional kimono and obi (sash).. With the spread of chemical dyes and the influence of Art Nouveau, modern kimonos with vivid colours and shapes became popular.



Bijin-ga

Sweet Potato Shochu, Soda, Umeshu

•••

*Classic Whisky Highball, with
a hint of Mandarin*

£21

*“Bijin-ga”, a generic term of pictures of beautiful women in Japanese art,
particularly woodblock printing in the ukiyo-e genre.*



Toto Sundai

Chita Whisky, Soda, Citrus

••••

Sweet and refreshing with a touch of plum

£20



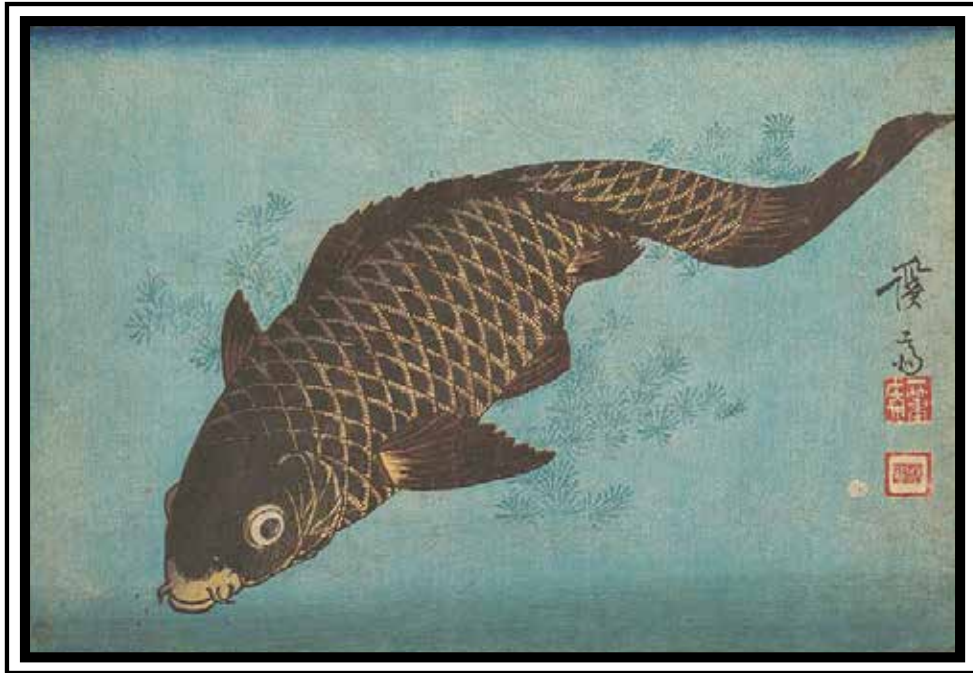
Torii

*Rice Shochu, Housemade
Grapefruit Soda*

••••

*Slightly bitter, citrusy, with a grapefruit aroma
£18*

'Kamisuki'. From the series "Twelve Aspects of Woman" by Torii Kotondo.



Koi

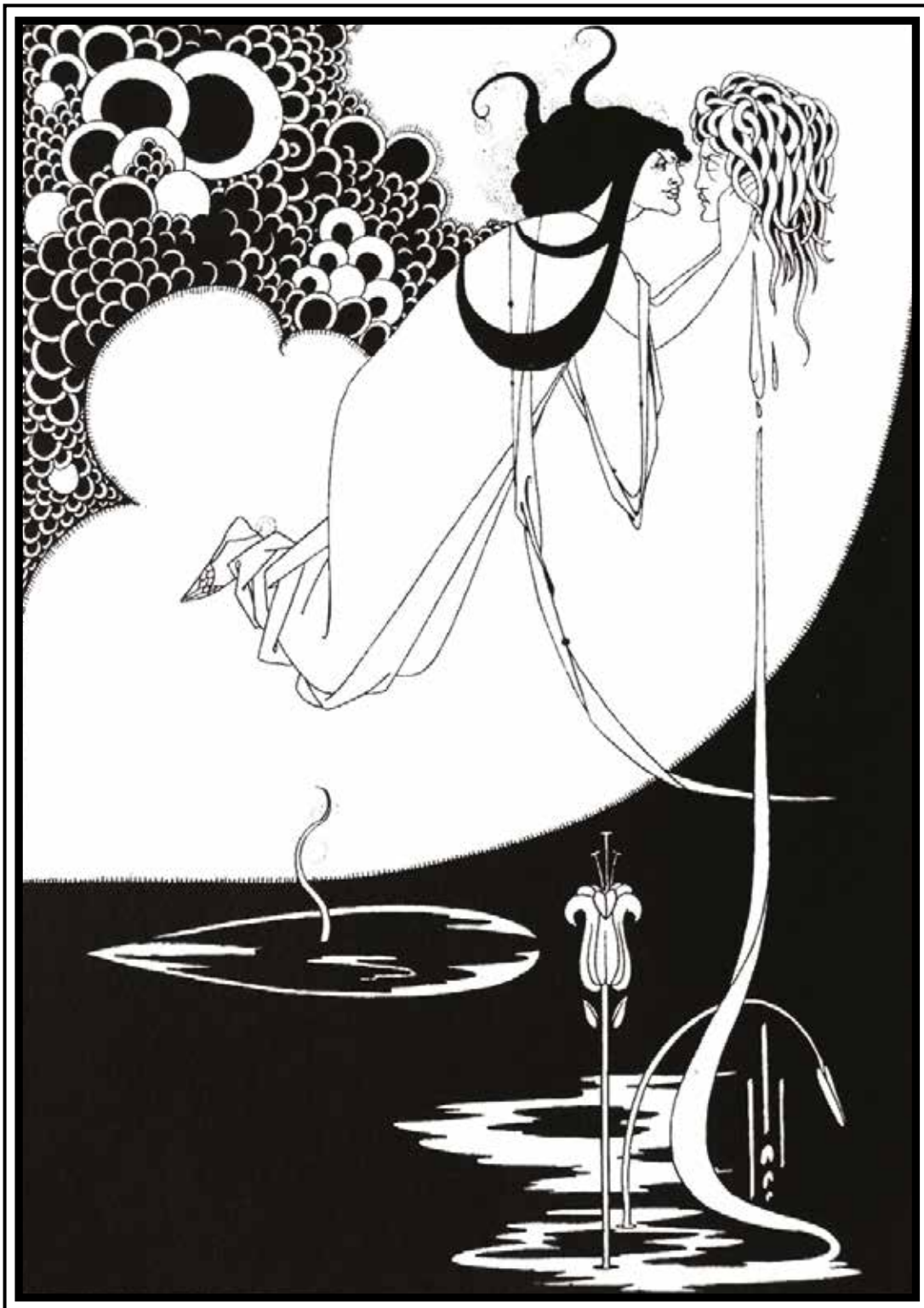
Barley Shochu, Soda, Citrus

••••

*Traditional Japanese chūhai, dry,
intense and clear*

£16

As ukiyo-e popularity grew, the koi carp became a popular subject for artists to depict. The carp are often used symbolically, either representing people swimming through an "ocean of suffering", or reflecting the zen quality of finding peace.



Non-Alcoholic

Inspired by flavours and ingredients

The Climax

*Amarico, Everleaf Mountain, NLL
Salcombe, London Essence Tonic Water*

••••

*Refreshing and complex, with citrus notes
and a hints of fresh botanicals*

£12



The Woman in the Moon

*Soy Milk, Edi CBD, Sea Salt Water,
Toasted Genmaicha Tea*

••••

*Unique herbal taste of eucalyptus combined
together with toasted tea notes and a smooth
and creamy texture.*

£12



Madame Rejane

*Amarico, Clean&Co Rhubarb, Orange
and Pink Grapefruit Juice*

••••

*Energetic and complex this is a twist on
classic Garibaldi cocktail with a
hint of rhubarb and a slightly bitter finish*

£12