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## Ako Samurai With Soba on the Eve of the Raid

“Soba in Ukiyoe” Series by Takaji (Teque) Matsuura of Asagaya, Tokyo

These prints were acquired in April 2011 when Yoshi and I were in Tokyo. Ken and Harue Asano introduced us to Teque and Etsuko Matsuura. The six of us gathered

for dinner in a *yokocho* alley in Asagaya. Below, Teque and Etsuko flank Yoshi and me in front of the *izukaya* where we dined. Teque’s paintings were inspired by the fa-

mous and true story of 47 masterless *samurai* who, more than 300 years ago, surrendered their lives to conduct a vendetta on behalf of their lord. – Jackson Sellers

