

A JOURNEY TO JAPAN



Alessio Iannone

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A JOURNEY TO JAPAN

di Alessio Iannone

"Giappone. Paese dove la modernità e la tradizione convivono in perfetta armonia. La bellezza e la ricerca della perfezione permea ogni aspetto della vita. Persone gentili e umili che vivono per la comunità arrivando anche a mettersi in secondo piano per gli altri. Più che un viaggio un'esperienza di vita. Di quelle che ti riempiono l'anima..."

"Japan. A country where modernity and tradition coexist in perfect harmony. Beauty and the pursuit of perfection permeates every aspect of life. The people are kind and humble who live for the community, even putting themselves in second place for others. More than a journey, it was a life experience. An experience that fills the soul..."

"「日本。近代と伝統が、完璧な調和のもと共存している国。美しさと完璧を求めることが、生活の隅々まで浸透している。人々は、親切で謙虚であり、社会の為に生き、他の人の為に、自らを脇におくことさえいとわない。旅というよりは、人生経験であった。心を満たすものであった。」

On the line

Gran parte della vita dei Giapponesi si svolge sui mezzi pubblici di trasporto. Treni e metro sono letteralmente presi d'assalto da orde di lavoratori, specialmente nelle ore di punta. Nella massa di persone che popolano questi mezzi, generalmente "standardizzate" nell'apparenza esterna e nei modi di fare, c'è sempre qualcuno che spicca.

A large part of Japanese life takes place on public transport. Trains and subways are literally besieged by hordes of workers, especially at peak times. In the maze of people that populate public transport, there is always someone who stands out from the "standardised" crowd in terms of both appearance and behaviour.

多くの日本人の生活は、公共交通機関によって成り立っている。電車やメトロは、文字通り、ラッシュアワーにもなると大量の会社員でごった返す。こうした機関を使っている群衆の人々のほとんどは、外見も振る舞いも似たり寄ったりであるが、常に目立つ存在の人が1人2人いるものであった。



"Going to work"



"Coming back home"



"Lipstick (Ready for the night)"



"Working"



"Playing in the tube"



"Priest"

Everyday life

Le metropoli sono piene di figure interessanti e sono caratterizzate da un forte contrasto tra la freneticità della vita lavorativa e i ritmi legati alla cultura passata. Si passa dai grattacieli pieni di uffici ai Templi Shintoisti e Buddisti; dai businessmen in completo e con la valigetta ai santoni e alle figure religiose.

The metropolises are full of interesting individuals, and are characterised by a strong contrast between the frenetic working life of the present and a pace of life linked to the past. One passes from the skyscrapers filled with offices to Shinto and Buddhist Temples; from businessmen in suits with briefcases to holy men and religious figures.

大都市は、常に興味を惹きつけるもので一杯であり、仕事中心の目まぐるしい生活と昔からのゆったりとした文化的リズムが、強烈なコントラストを生んでいた。
超高層オフィスビルから、神道や仏教のお寺へ、スーツを着てカバンを持ったビジネスマンから、宗教を象徴するような住職へ...



"Going to"



"Pause"



"Shopping"



"Fully immersed"



"Riding the bike"



"Beauty at work"



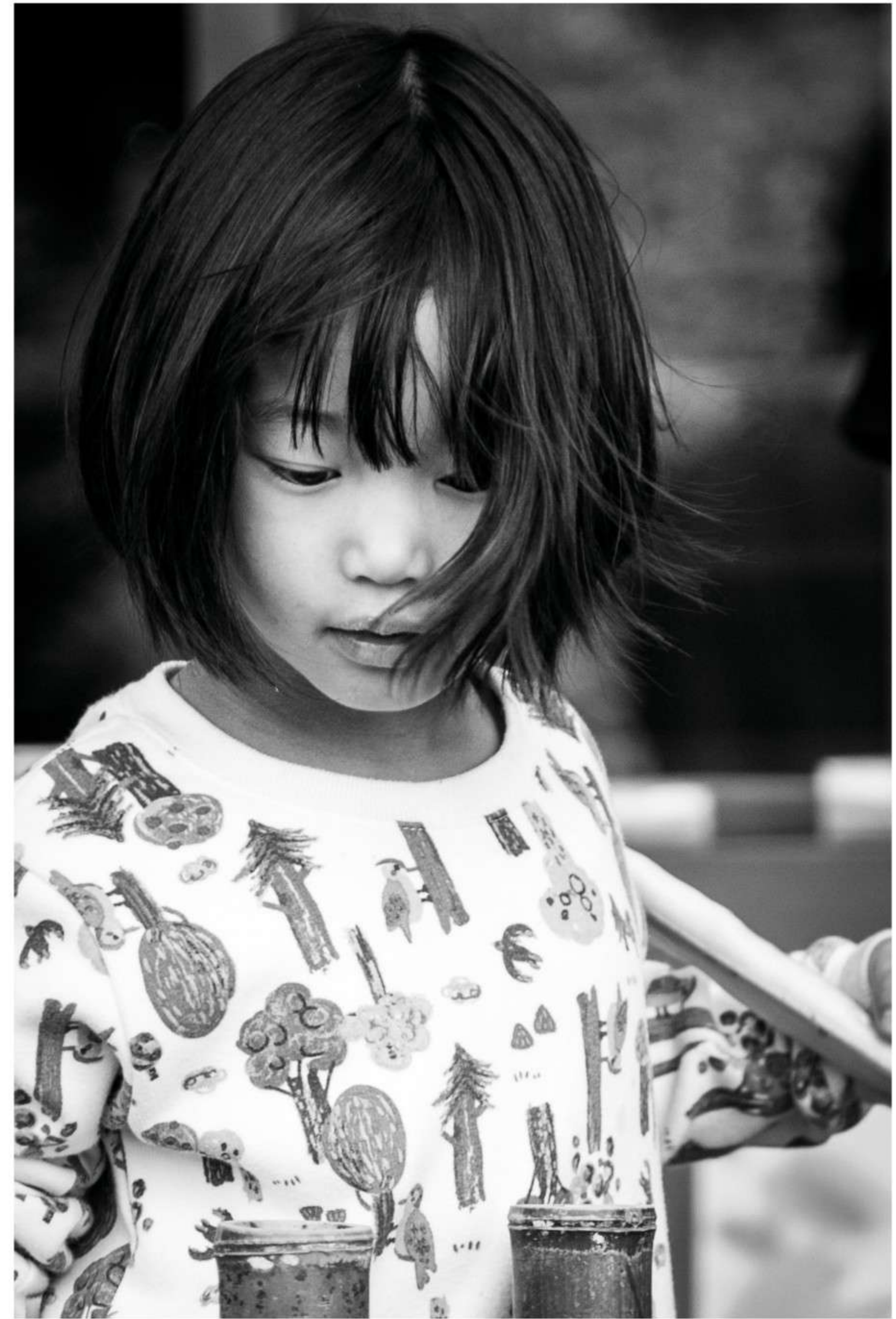
"Observing"



"Ancient work in modern way"



"Serious"



"Discovering the world"



"So what?..."



"Going through"



"Cooking"



"Friends"



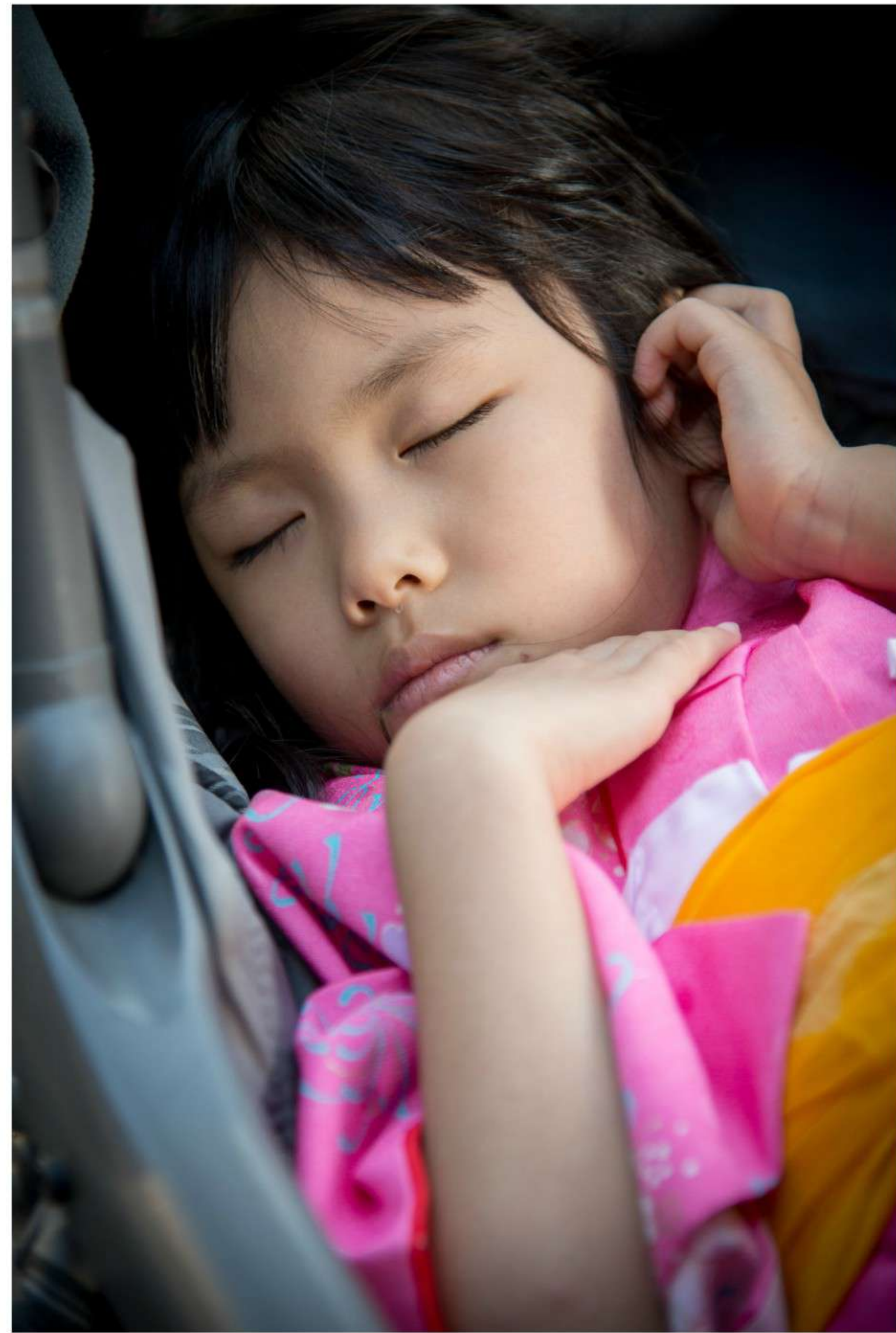
"Cosplaying"



"Classic style"



"Relaxing"



"Dreaming"



"Tradition"



"Tea time"



"Going to school"



"Lost in thought"

Kimono

Il kimono (letteralmente "cosa da indossare" e quindi "abito") è un indumento tradizionale giapponese, nonché il costume nazionale del Paese del Sol levante. E' normale trovare donne Giapponesi indossare questo abito anche nella vita di tutti i giorni e non solo in occasioni speciali. La bellezza dei colori e dei motivi di questi particolari abiti cattura subito la vista.

The kimono (literally "thing to wear" and therefore, "dress") is a traditional Japanese garment, as well as the national costume of the Land of the Rising Sun. It is normal to find Japanese women wearing this garment, not only not for special occasions, but in daily life. The beauty of both the colors and the motifs on these characteristic outfits are immediately eye-catching.

着物とは(文字通りには“着る物”、要するに“服”である)伝統的な日本の装いであり、日出ずる国の民族衣装である。特別な機会のみならず、普段の生活の中なかでも、着物をきた日本女性を見かけることも珍しいことではない。美しい色彩と特徴的な形のこの衣装に、すぐに視線を奪われた。



"Sunny day"



"Growing up"



"In the garden"



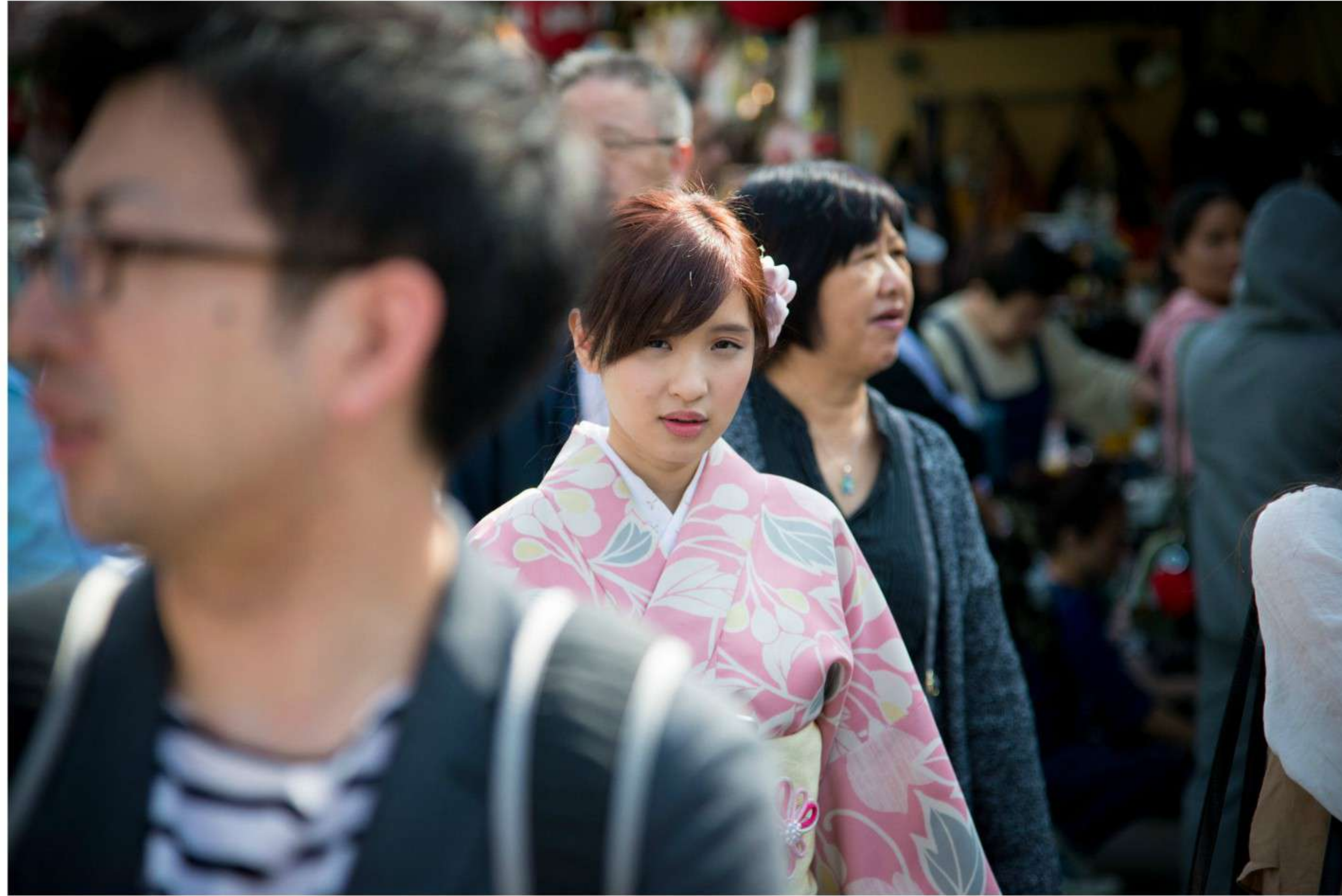
"konichiwa!"



"Under the umbrella"



"Walking in the street"



"I see you..."



"In the market"



"Chatting"



"Family"



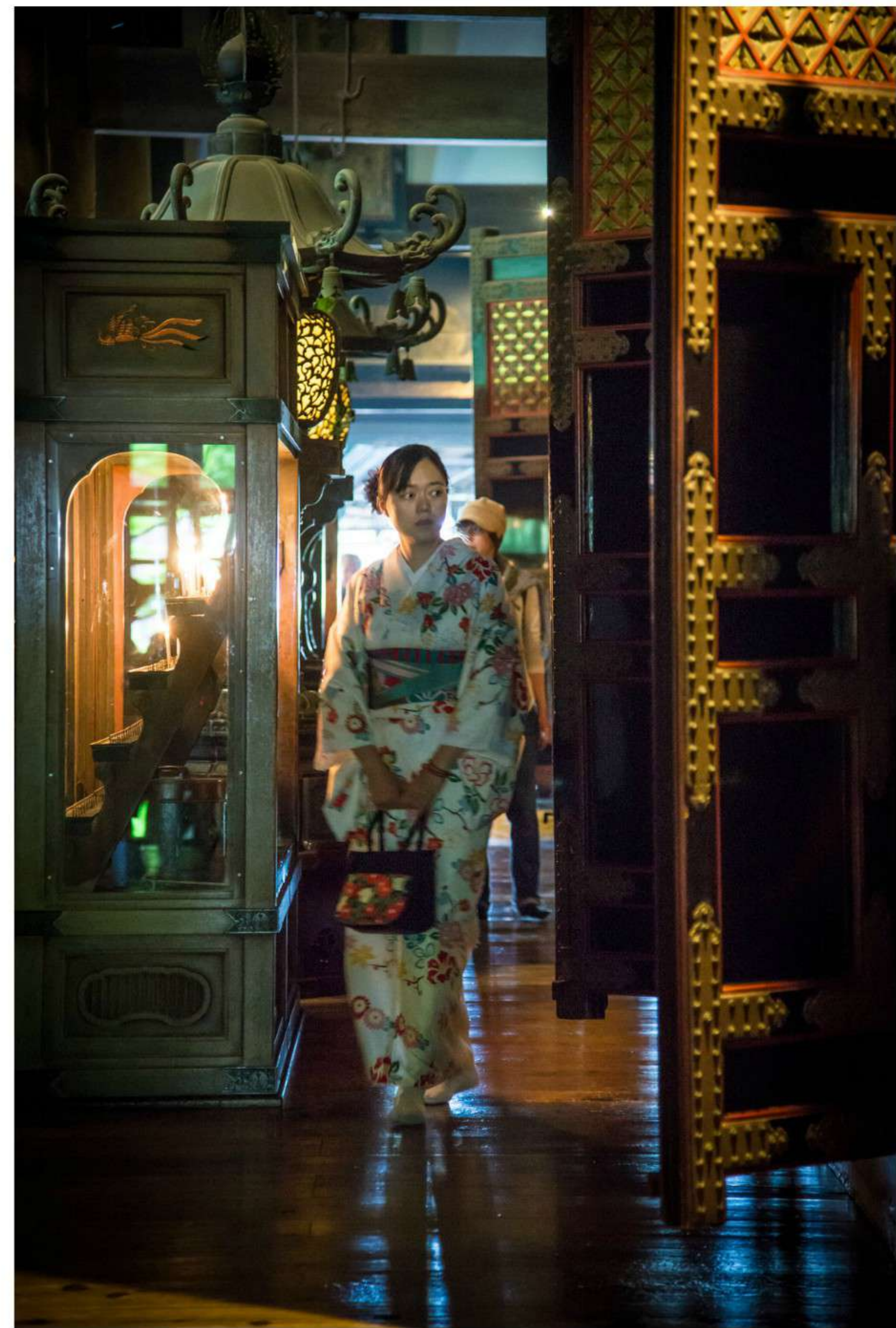
"Red chicks"



"Staring at me"



"Charming"



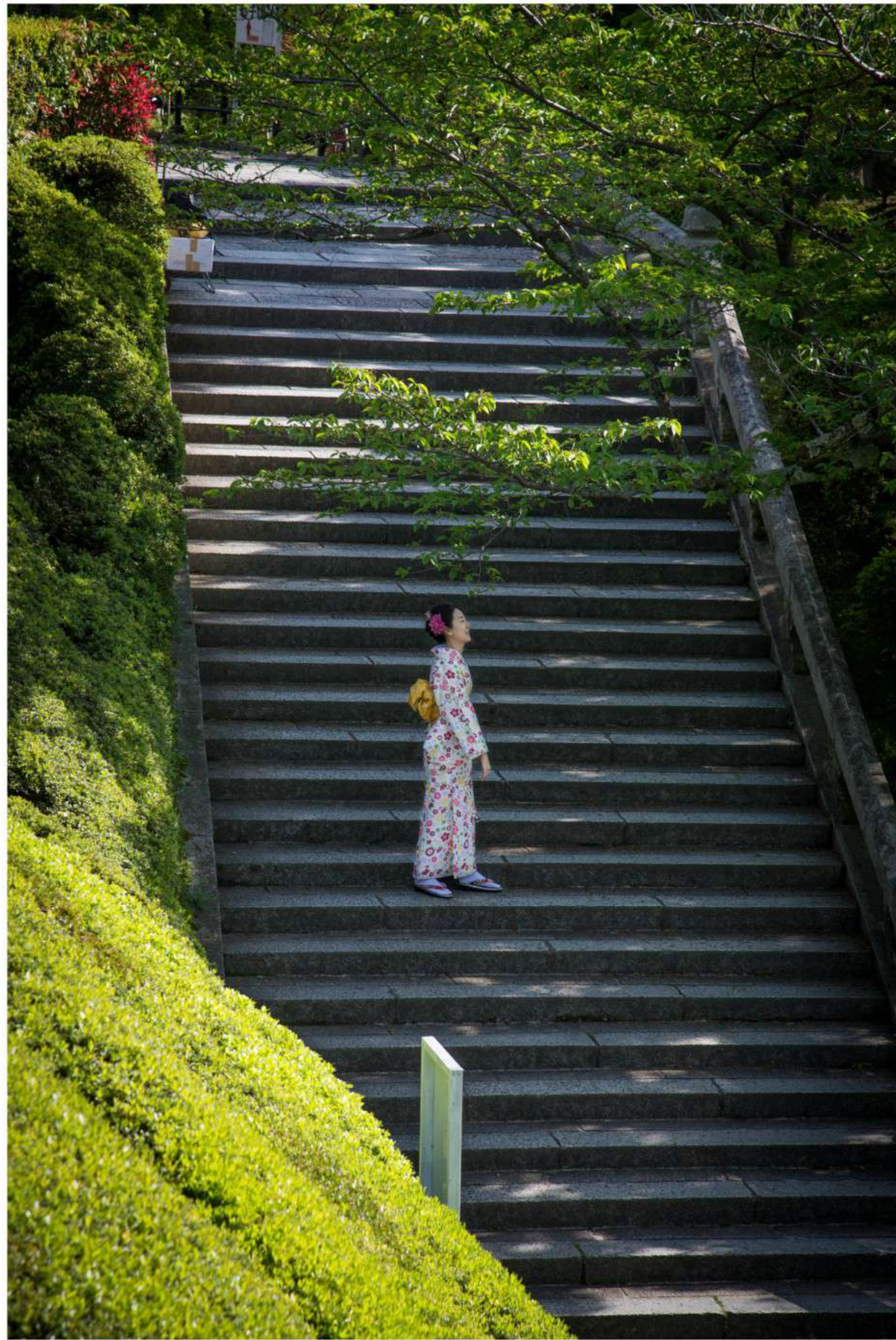
"Observing"



"Purifying"



"Happy"



"Stairs"



"Smile!"



"Hand in hand"



"Theater"



"Geisha"



"Stranger"

Temples & Shrines

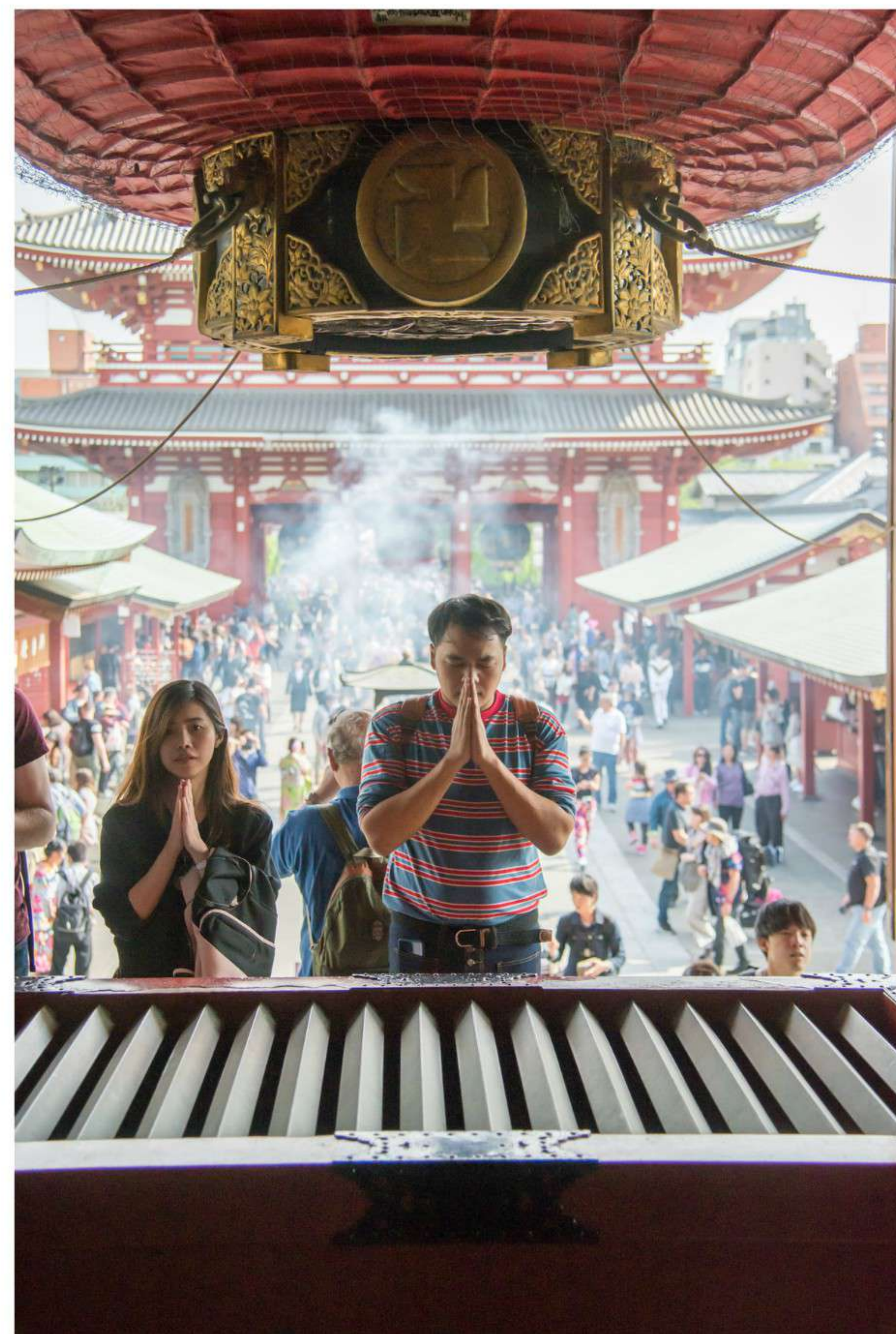
Una parte importante della vita del popolo Giapponese ruota intorno ai templi. Meravigliosi esempi di architettura dei tempi passati, pieni di colori sgargianti e dettagli interessanti. Siano essi Buddisti o Shintoisti sono caratterizzati da un brulichio di persone che entrano, escono, si fermano a fare offerte o ad accendere incenso. I Giapponesi, anche se proiettati nel futuro per mille cose, restano molto ancorati al loro passato spirituale.

An important part of the life of Japanese people revolves around the temples. These are remarkable examples of past architecture, full of bright colors and interesting details. Apart from Buddhists or Shintoists, there are always swarms of people who enter, exit and stop to make offerings or to light incense. Japanese people, despite being orientated towards the future in most aspects, remain very anchored to their spiritual past.

日本の生活の中でも重きを置かれているのが、神社仏閣である。過去の素晴らしい建築技術の型として、鮮やかな色彩で溢れ、細部まで興味深い。仏教徒であれ神道であれ、供え物やお線香をあげる人々が、出たり入ったりとごった返しているのか特徴的だ。日本人は、多くのことを未来に向けて進めているが、同時に、昔からの霊的精神にも強く結び付いているのだ。。



"Incense"



"Please"



"Praying"



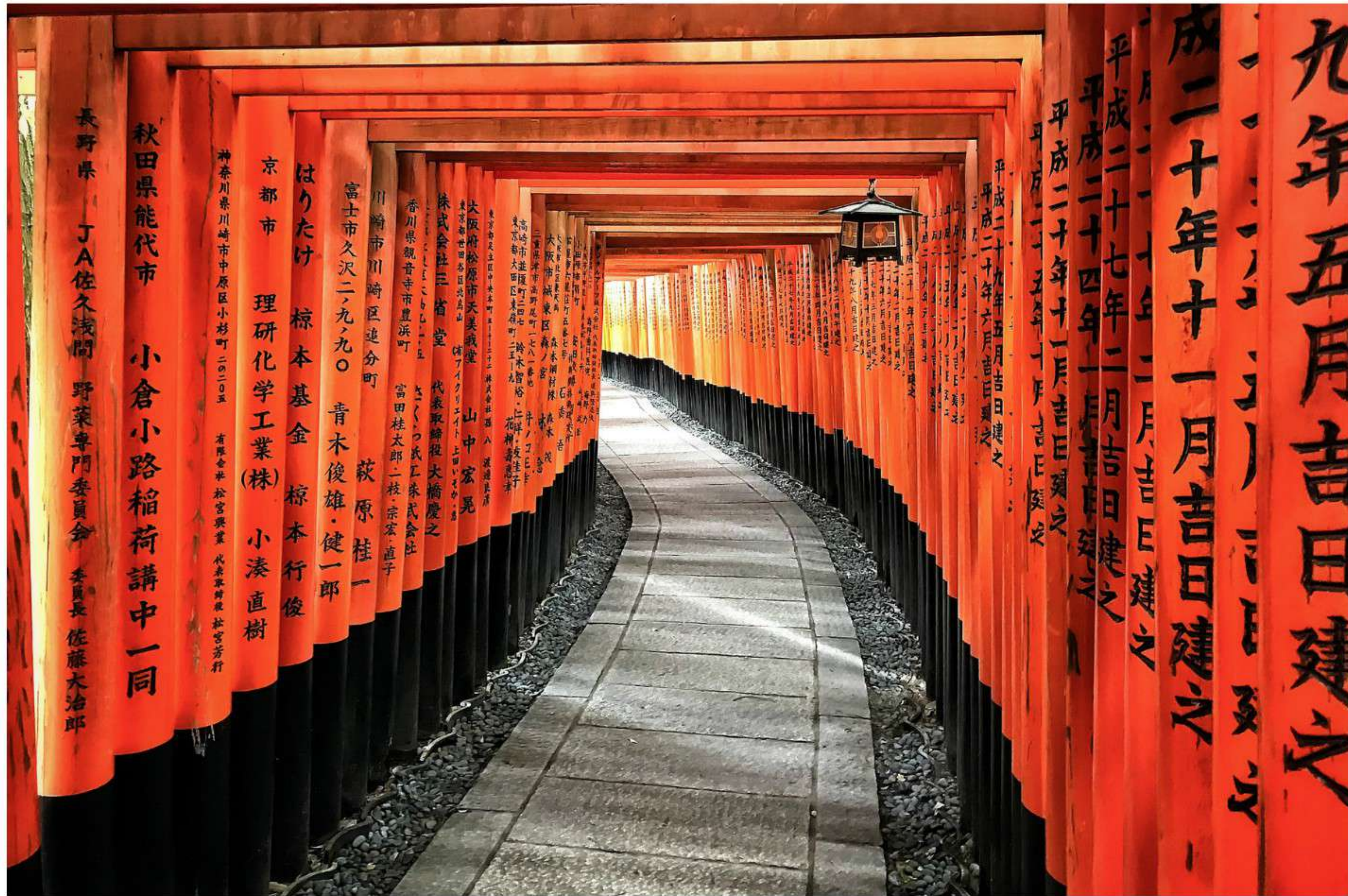
"Ceremony"



"Candles"



"On the knees"



"Toris"



"Rain"



"Into the sea"



"View"



"Lovers"



"Serving"



"Visitor"



"Buddha"



"Priestess"



"Into the woods"



"Listen to me..."



"Bride"



"Wedding"



"Ethereal"

Nature

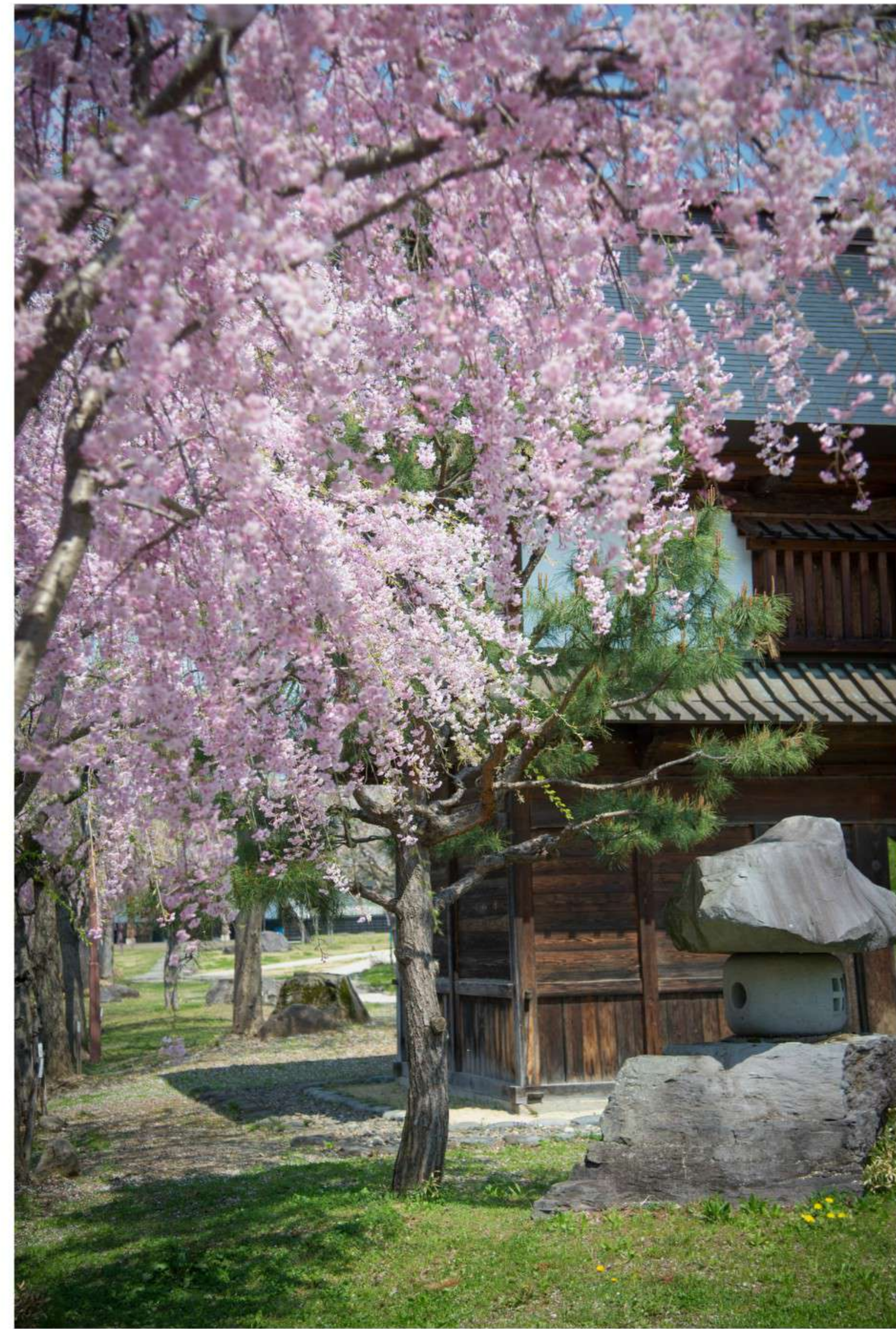
In Giappone viene data molta importanza alla natura. Tantissimi sono i meravigliosi giardini curatissimi e pieni di fiori colorati. Immane ovunque sono i Sakura (alberi di ciliegio), che nel periodo di massima fioritura rendono il paesaggio (urbano e non) straordinariamente poetico. Il rapporto del popolo Giapponese con la natura è di reverente rispetto. E tutto ciò contribuisce all'aura mistica che permea tutto il paese.

In Japan, great importance is given to nature. There are many wonderful, well-kept gardens, full of colorful flowers. Almost everywhere, there are the Sakura (cherry trees), which during the period of maximum flowering render the landscape (both urban and non) extraordinarily poetic. The relationship between the Japanese people and nature is reverential. All of this contributes to the mystical aura that permeates the whole country.

日本では、自然に対して非常な重きが置かれている。よく手入れの施された、様々な色彩の花々に満ちた素晴らしい庭園がとて多くある。どこにでも桜(サクラノボの木)が欠かさずあり、その開花の時期になると、(大都市であろうとなかろうと)詩情溢れる景色を広げてくれる。自然と日本人の関わりとは、敬意に満ちたものである。その全てが、この国中に、神秘的な雰囲気醸し出しているのだ。



"Cherry blossom"



"Cherry tree"



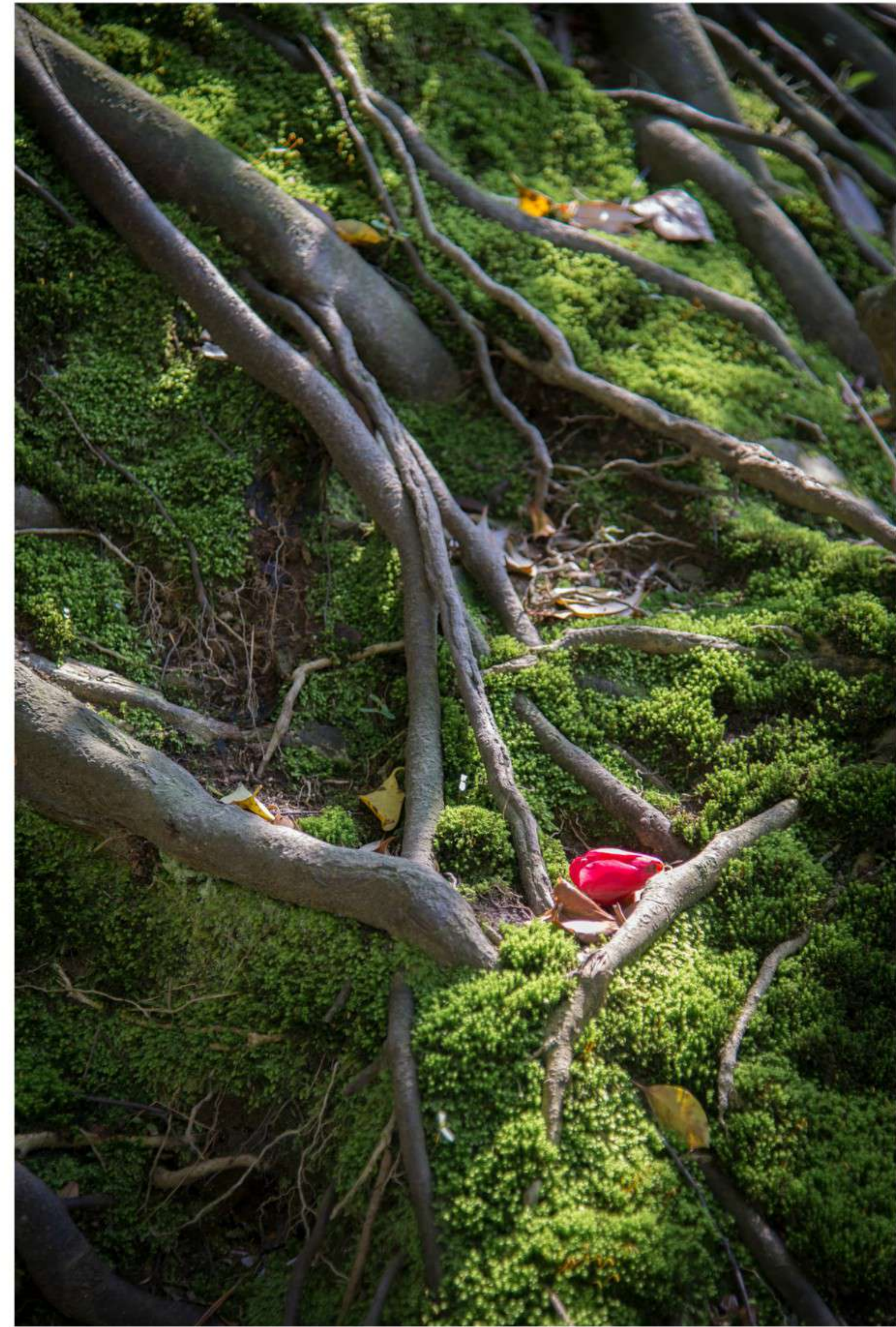
"Bride and Groom in the river"



"Castle in the woods"



"Among the giants"



"Red on green"



"Lost in the woods"



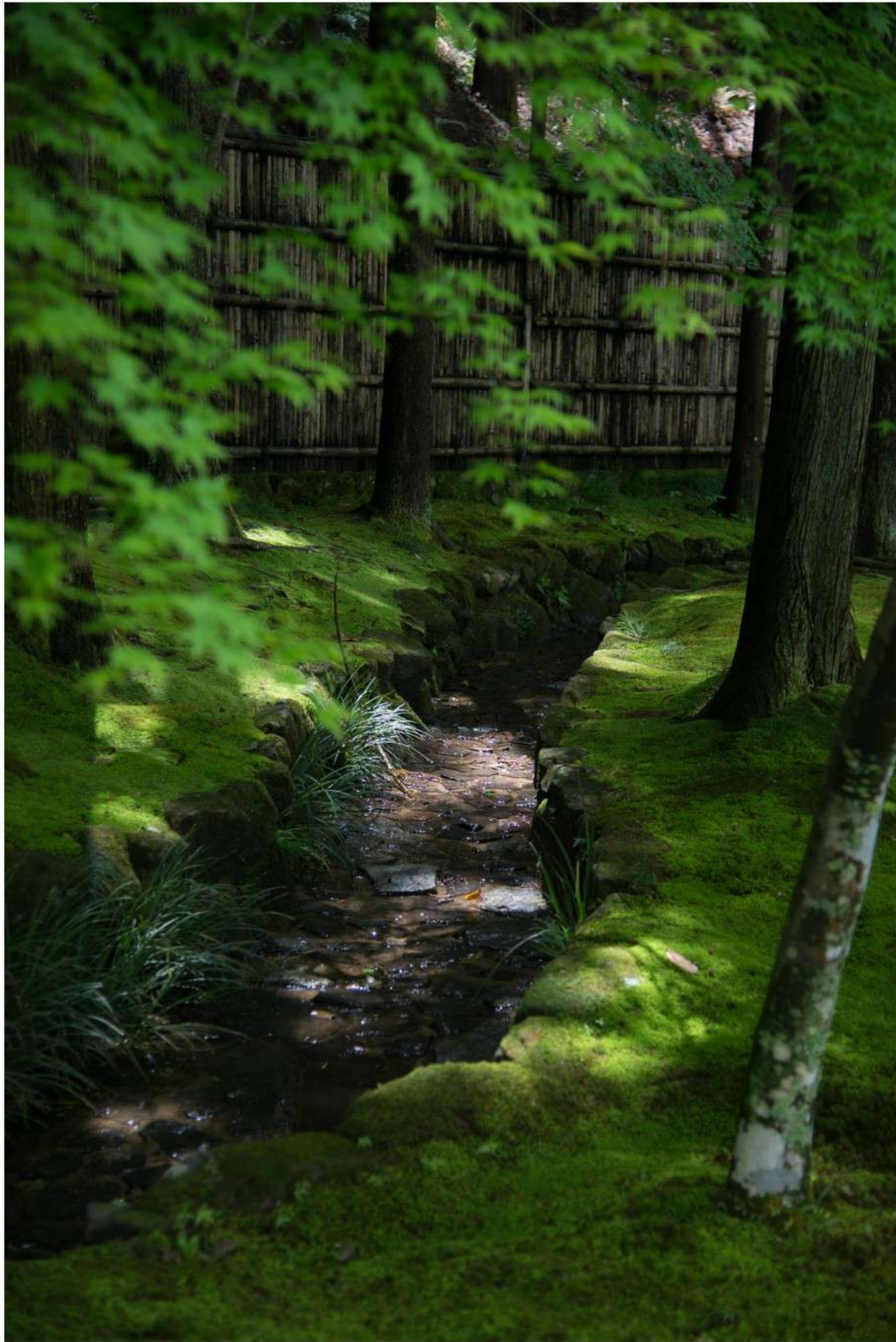
"Petals and Bumblebee"



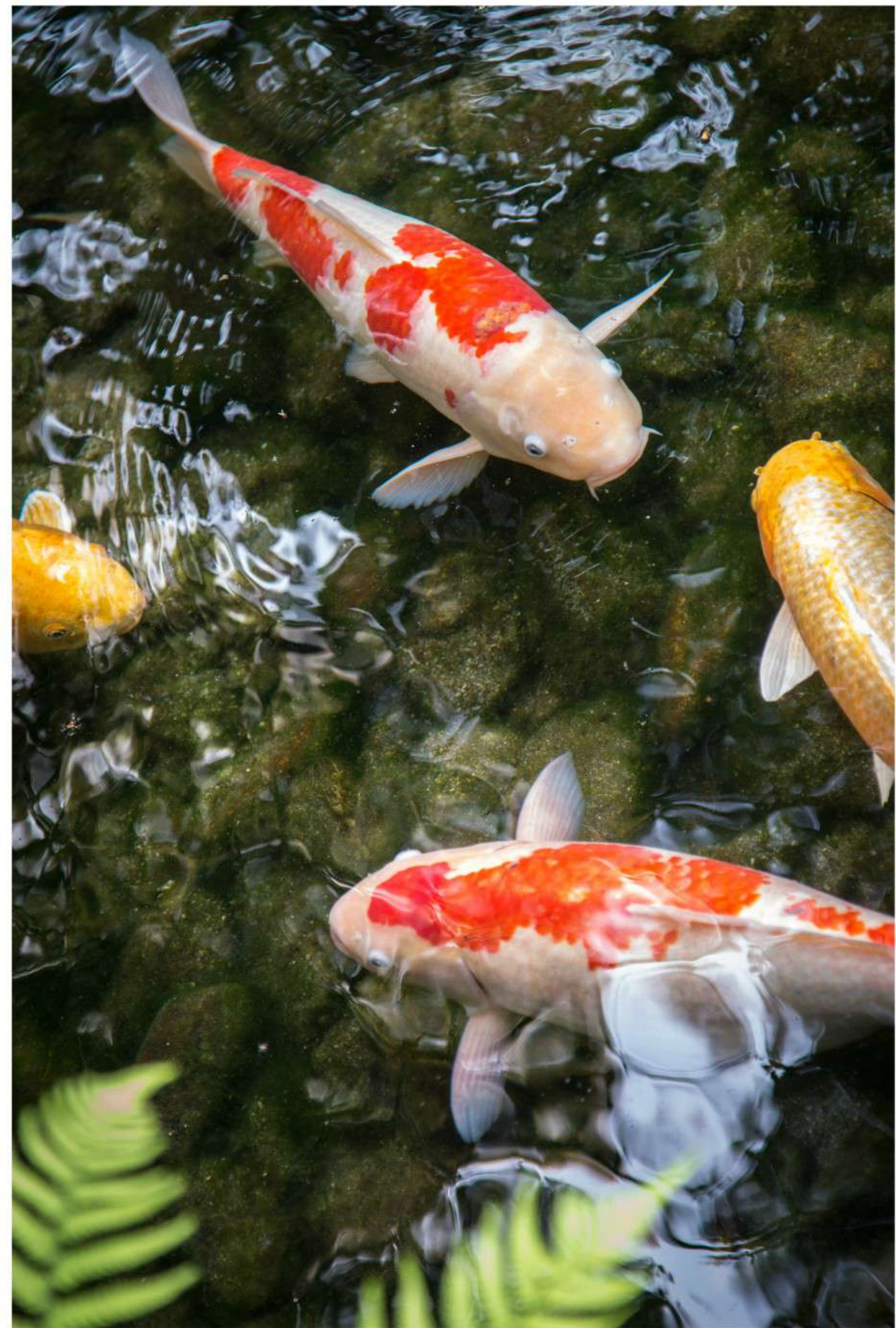
"Sitting"



"Rain of petals"



"Peaceful"



"Koi"



"Bamboo forest"



"Bamboo logs"

Nightlife

La notte esegue una trasformazione sulle città. Si accendono migliaia di luci colorate, l'ambiente diventa un luogo fiabesco anche nel mezzo della modernità più estrema. Compaiono personaggi che di giorno si nascondono. Inizia un'altra vita con uno stile molto diverso da quella diurna, ma anch'essa interessante e da assaporare.

The night sees a transformation of the cities. Thousands of colored lights are switched on, and a fairytale land emerges within the backdrop of the most extreme modernity. Characters, who are hidden during the day, then appear. And so starts another life with an interesting style to be savoured, very different to that during the day.

夜の訪れによって、街は変貌する。カラフルなライトで満ち溢れ、非常に近代的な場所が、おとぎ話の世界のように変わる。昼間は見かけることのない人種が出てくる。日中の生活スタイルとは全く異なった生活が始まる、これもまた、興味深く、味わい深いものだ。



"Blue and Red"



"Lantern"



"Old and new"



"Waiting"



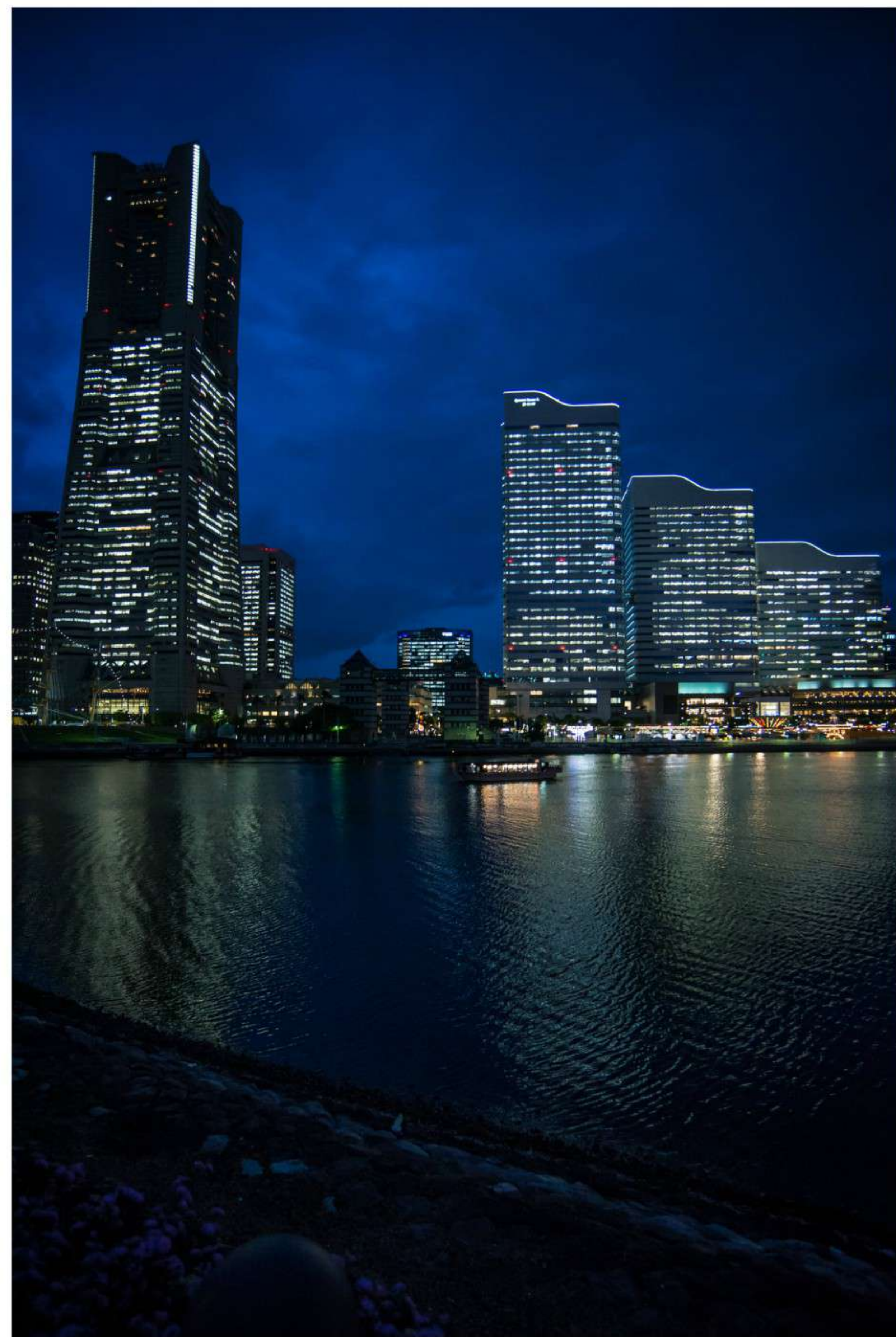
"Madame"



"People of the night"



"The Boss"



"Skyline"



"Bladerunner"



"Crossing"

Photos location

2, 4, 6: Tokyo Subway
5: Kyoto Station
7: Ueno Koen, Taito - Tokyo
8, 9, 10, 11, 12: Akihabara, Tokyo
13, 14: Tsukiji, Tokyo
15, 35, 37, 41: Asakusa, Tokyo
Cover, 16, 30, 36, 38, 51, 52, 53, 54, 86, 87: Senso-ji temple, Asakusa - Tokyo
17, 39, 42, 83: Koraku-en, Okayama
18, 19: Chiyoda, Marunouchi - Tokyo
20, 55, 57, 59, 60, 61: Itsukushima, Miyajima
21, 22, 23, 24, 74: Kurashiki, Okayama
25, 32, 33, 34, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 56, 67: Kiyomizu, Higashiyama - Kyoto
26, 27: Suimoncho, Nara
28: Kanda-myojin Shrine, Tokyo
29, 69: Yukinoshita, Kamakura
31: Ueno Koen, Taito - Tokyo
40: Suimoncho, Nara
49, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 95: Gion, Kyoto
50: Higashiyama, Kanazawa
58, 62: Fushimi Inari-taisha, Kyoto
63, 78: Sannai, Nikko
64: Kasuganocho, Nara
3, 65, 68: Kōtoku-in, Kamakura
66, 70, 71: Achi Shrine, Hommachi - Kurashiki
72, 77: Kenroku-en, Kanazawa
73, 81: Iiyama
75: Okayama Castle
76, 84, 85: Arashiyama, Kyoto
79, 80: Kanazawa Castle
82: Ginkakuji, Sakyo-ku - Kyoto
93: Shinko, Yokohama
94: Dotombori, Osaka

Dedicato a:

- la mia stupenda moglie, che mi ha sempre ispirato e che sempre mi
spinge a superare i miei limiti
- mio padre, che ha reso tutto possibile

Dedicated to:

- my extraordinary wife, who has always inspired me and encouraged me
to exceed my limits
- to my father who rendered everything possible.

専用：

- 常にインスピレーションを与え、自らの限界を超えるべく支えてく
れる、私の素晴らしい妻と、
全てを可能にしてくれた私の父に、捧げる。

A special thanks to my friends Anne Whittaker and Rumi Cho
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