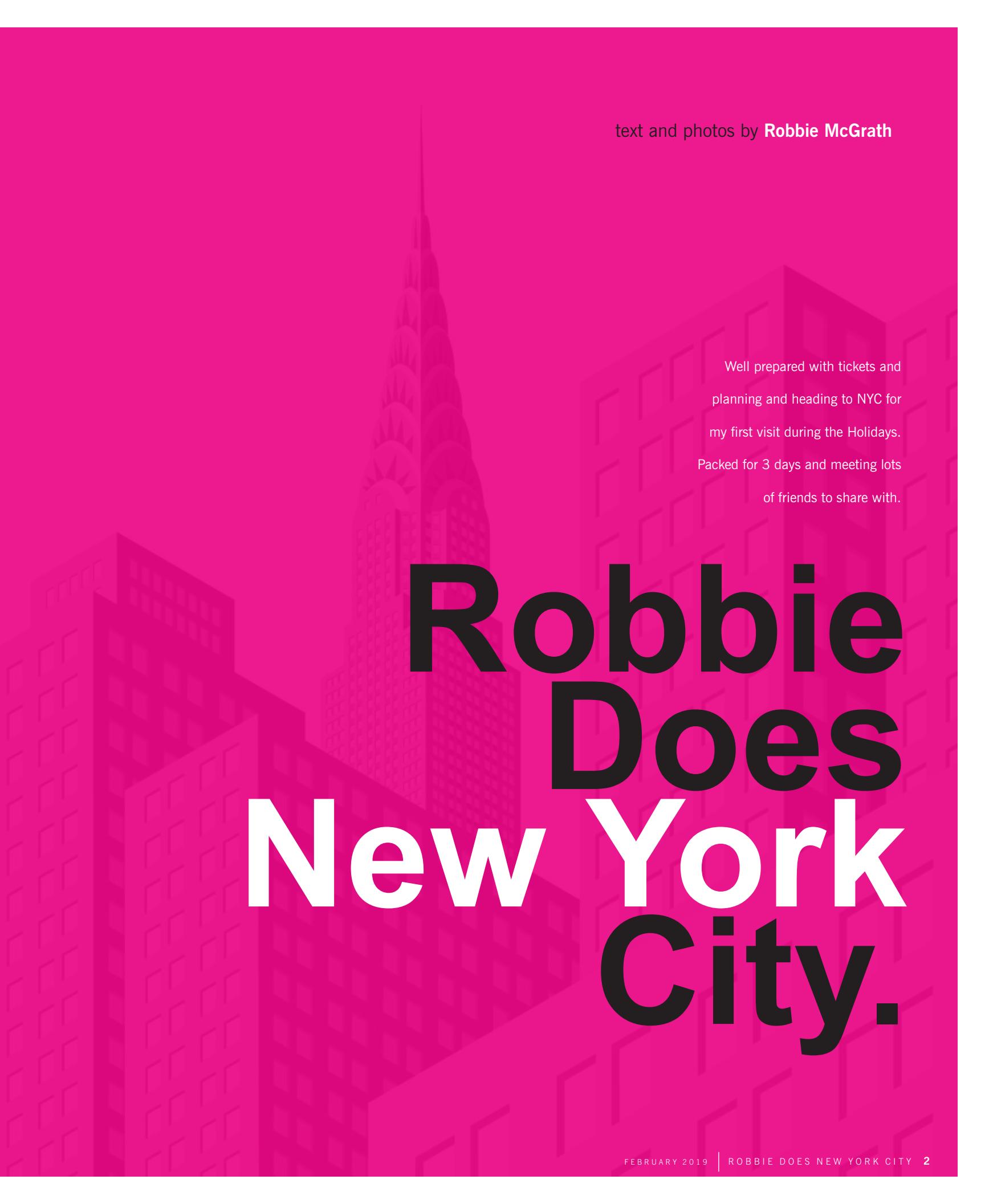




“ All about **Andy Warhol**, and my God, the largest showing of his in 30 years! ”



text and photos by **Robbie McGrath**

Well prepared with tickets and  
planning and heading to NYC for  
my first visit during the Holidays.

Packed for 3 days and meeting lots  
of friends to share with.

# Robbie Does New York City.

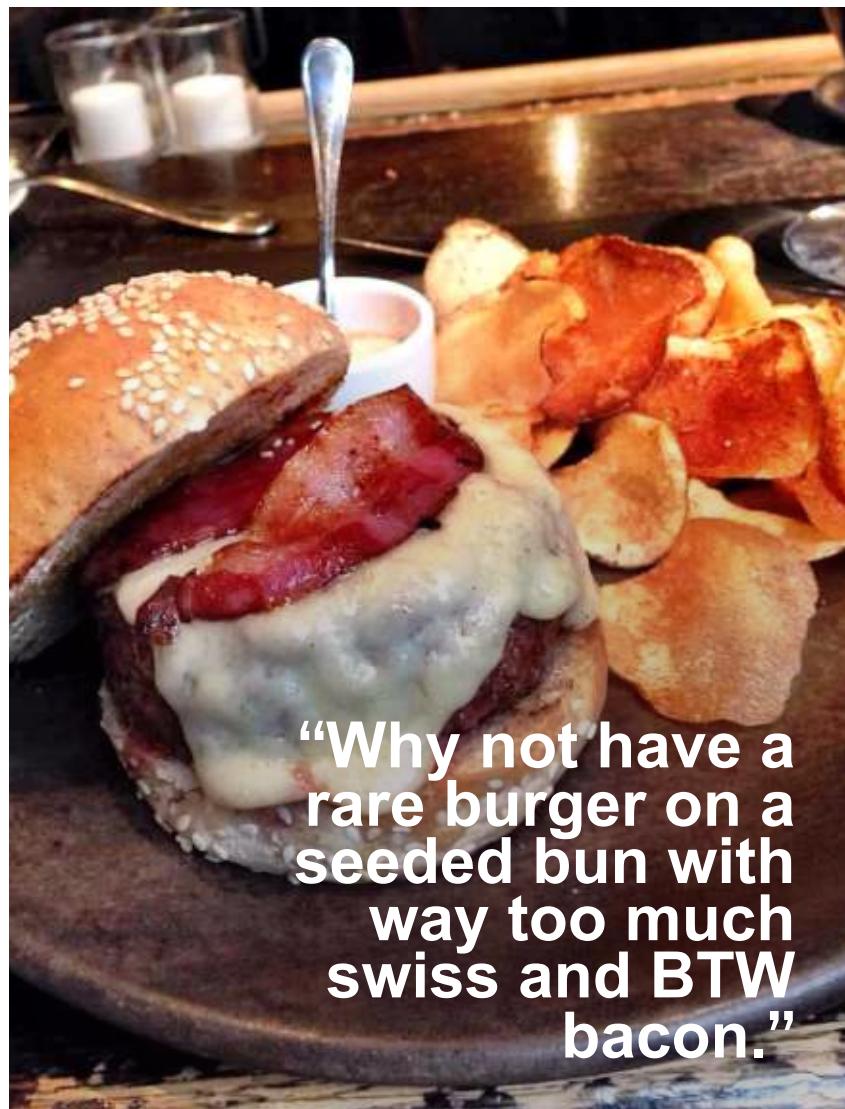


## DAY ONE.

The Time Warner Building (think vertical Rodeo Drive) to see **Bang Bar**, the latest from David Chang. Long lines for what may be a future growth vehicle to compliment **Momofuku Noodle**, featuring a gyros-style vertical roaster.

Featured today - mortadella and porchetta. Looked great, but lines were daunting, so next door to Momofuku Noodle for a pork bun. Not a bad compromise.

Now off for a wonderful Keith Haring exhibit at **Gladstone Gallery**. So lucky to see because the collection probably will not be put together again according to the gallery.



**“Why not have a rare burger on a seeded bun with way too much swiss and BTW bacon.”**

Lunch at my favorite, **Gramercy Tavern**, to join my Seattle friends. Terrific Christmas decor adorned the walls and the place was packed. Very accommodating bartender made sure the three of us could take over the corner of the bar. We opened our meal with the best focaccia I have ever had. Why not have a rare burger on a seeded bun with way too much swiss and BTW bacon. Chips seemed like overkill. Dessert looms ahead, and perfect concord grape pie with toasted marshmallow ice cream!

Off now to **The Whitney Museum** via the High Line for my pre purchased ticket. All about Andy Warhol, and my God the largest showing of his in 30 years! Some pieces I have seen before but not so well curated. Three complete floors, so I will need to visit one more time on day 3.

Meeting another Seattle-ite later at **Simon and Whale** to unwind with martinis after a long but great day.



## DAY TWO.

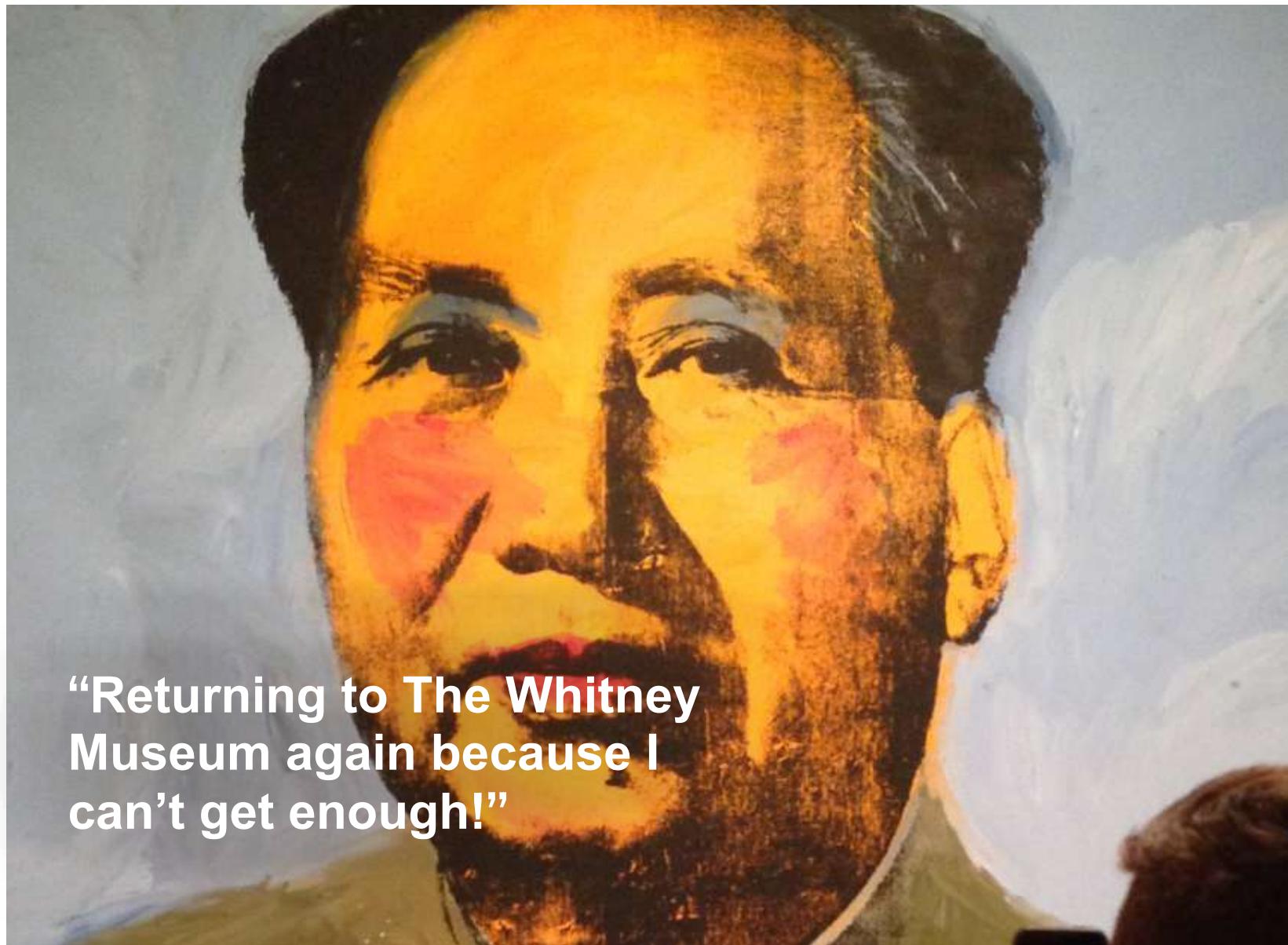
Visiting the **LGBTQ Center** this morning to see the recently discovered Keith Haring restroom and took photos that I wouldn't expose here. Just Google it, trust me.

Going to a matinee now, but **Broadway** during the busy Holiday Season can be a shitshow! At least the play **Waverly Gallery** was worth it. Elaine May, Joan Allen, Michael Cera, and Lucas Hedges were all wonderful.

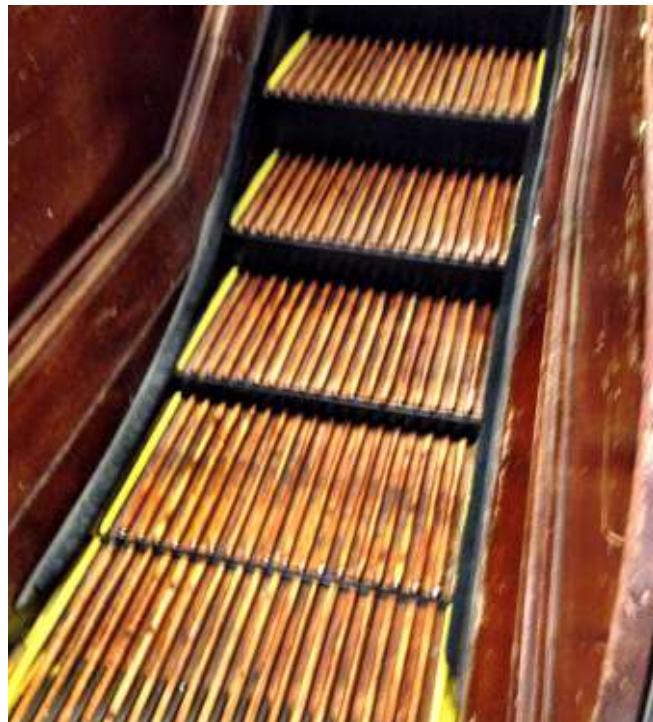
Fought my way out of **Times Square** to meet another friend who just flew in at Simon and Whale to unwind. **Union Square Cafe** located nearby, and sister of Gramercy Tavern, did not disappoint. The food is always great at USC and the new location is just fine as well. Love this whole area and will try to book a hotel in 23rd and Lexington area next trip.

Need some rest now.





**“Returning to The Whitney Museum again because I can’t get enough!”**



## DAY THREE.

Returning to **The Whitney Museum** again because I can't get enough! Better the second time, and I want to go back and look at videos I have never seen before and to take some photos.

Also returned to meet some friends from Seattle at **Gramercy Tavern**. Focaccia followed by yes....meatballs and monkfish WOW! I do not feel bad about the same places repeated, as they were that good.

Now to see Christmas NY style - a quick visit to **Macy's Herald Square** to see the upper floors escalators that are the original wood.

Next the **Rockefeller Center** Christmas Tree at the ice rink. Oops, the vantage point my friend and I sought was closed for a Swarovski holiday party. Didn't seem to matter because we were graciously invited to join for pinky-up bubbly and baby lobster rolls, AND departed with gift bags.



Read about a new go-to place called **Frenchette** located in Tribeca so I'd recommend using Google maps. After a lengthy wait we were finally seated at the bar, enjoying very fun and helpful bartenders. I have often described the bar as the original captain's table.

Snails planted in very creamy, soft scrambled eggs. More like dreamy. Then Rouge fish, bony but worth the effort. Duck fat french fries and lamb kidneys to finish, and washed down by ice cold vodka shooters. Will return next time I'm in New York because of the food, but most of all the welcoming staff. And maybe Eric Ripert could walk in as he is a regular.

Hotel bound to rest for the long trip home tomorrow.

## SEATTLE

Once home, I discovered the news that Frenchette made a list of the top ten new restaurants in New York City 2018. If asked, I would agree.



DRAWING BY SAMUEL TAYLOR

**ROBBIE MCGRATH**, Seattle based restauranteur, barman and food and travel writer.