

# In Sharp Focus

Through her photography, Nicole Robinson captures the exquisite light and life of her surroundings.



In 1983, Nicole Robinson's view of the world was forever changed. That's the year she got her first camera and started looking at her surroundings through an artist's lens. Throughout college, she honed her craft, planning for a future in photography. "Then I graduated," she says, "and life, student loans, debt and work just kind of happened. Art took a back seat for a while, but I never lost my passion."

That passion came roaring back with a vengeance in 2005. She learned new techniques by studying under several master photographers in her home state of North

Carolina who took an interest in her talent. "They taught me how to craft a shot with intention, rather than just snap a photo," she explains. "I still don't know if I choose the subject matter or it chooses me, but I find myself drawn to light — how it lays on things and plays off of small details. Most people see the big picture. I feel my job as an artist is to shine a light on the small elements that make up that picture."

Creating art is one thing; having a vehicle to show the public your work can be a bit of a challenge. So in 2012, Nicole cofounded Catchlight Gallery in West Jefferson, N.C., with her mentor, George Rembert. A photographers' collective, it's a place where the public can interact with the artists themselves and learn about the motives behind the masterpieces. Though she's recently moved to the South Carolina Lowcountry where she's found a host of new subjects to choose her,

Nicole continues to be involved with and display her work at Catchlight.

Nicole brings a unique perspective to how photography shows in a log home. The daughter of the founder of Log Homes of America and a 20-year industry veteran herself, she knows the value of bringing interesting pieces of art into the rustic canvas a log home provides. She offers this advice:

- **Photography as art** should evoke emotion. It should stir something inside you. Don't buy a piece because it matches your couch. Buy it because you love it.
- **Choose pieces** that hold a great deal of light and life. You should see something new each time you look at it.
- **Once you own it**, make sure it's lit well. Light is important with any art but it's vital in a log home, since the walls absorb more light than drywall. Install accent lights to highlight each piece.

In "Eyeing the Storm," Nicole captured her subject's breathtaking beauty in remarkable detail.



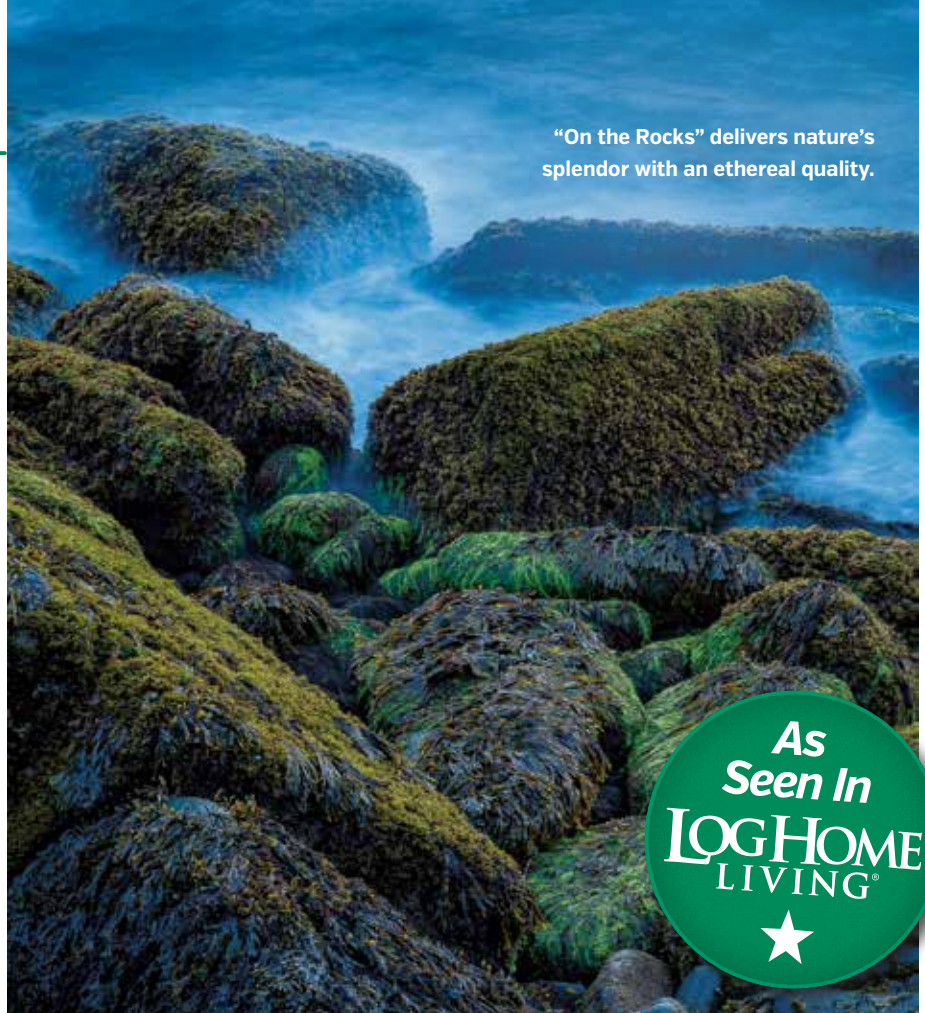


- **Your art doesn't** have to be rustic or a subject matter that's expected. Abstract art works just as well as wildlife images do. No subject matter is off limits in a log home.

To view more of Nicole's exceptional work, visit her website, **nicolerobinsonphotography.com** or Catchlight Gallery at **catchlightgallery.net**. If you're in West Jefferson, drop by the gallery in person. You just might find her there.



**ABOVE: "Breakfast on Roan Mountain" by Nicole Robinson.**



"On the Rocks" delivers nature's splendor with an ethereal quality.



**Gallery Hours:** 8am – 5pm Monday –Friday  
Weekends and evenings by appointment



**ORIGINAL & CAPTIVATING  
RUSTIC FURNITURE**