

## Nadine Levin: A journey through my lens

I feel like the luckiest person alive. Not only is it a cliché but it is also true.

As a girl growing up in Upper Northwest Washington, DC, I would never have thought beyond my wildest dreams that my interests would end up shaping my future. Who does? While other girls in my neighborhood played with Barbie's, I was watching Bonanza. I loved the west and for many years, horseback riding was a big part of my life. I also enjoyed travel and taking pictures.

After college, I worked in a series of interesting and diverse jobs to gain valuable life experience before getting married and raising a family. For many years, my focus was on my sons. I was raised to be a mother, and it was my boys that I was devoted to. Love for my sons was also the catalyst for my career. When my oldest was a baby, I wanted to capture him on film. I started by taking pictures and then began attending photography classes to hone my skills and improve the results. As my children grew up, we took trips all over the world – and I kept taking photographs. The more I took, the more I enjoyed what I was doing and the more focused I became. Friends and family noticed my talent and encouraged me to work professionally.

Life has a funny way of getting you to snap out of the world you have created and stare reality in the face. I was divorced from my



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husband and building a new life when I was found to have a brain aneurysm. It wasn't until I survived two operations that I began to notice what others miss in their daily lives – blades of grass and wheat blowing in the wind, children looking out the window onto the savannah, lighting changes as the day goes by...

In 2007, I established Photography by Nadine. Over time, the business has expanded from commissioned work to limited edition prints and progressed into stationary and home accessories. I've diversified my offerings so that anyone can afford a little slice of life.

My style is very natural. Unless specifically commissioned, you will never see a shot that has either been digitally altered or taken with a flash. You will rarely see an image taken indoors or

subjects that are posed. And for this reason, I do not do portrait photography. My lens is my true eye that observes and captures moments just as they become history. Landscapes, beachscapes, wildlife and nature are my themes of choice. I am also particularly drawn to cowboys because their lifestyle appeals to me. It allows me to step into a world in which I can capture them at work, in a setting I totally identify with. I do a lot of my photography on horseback and this gives me a unique and different perspective on the world.

I appreciate everyday and every moment. Photographs allow me to savor and share the most beautiful moments as the world changes – the kaleidoscope of fall colors, the first gentle snow of winter, the buzz of a hummingbird zipping by in the first days of summer.

The business of art is time-consuming and demanding but I spend time each day focusing on the same things I enjoyed as a girl – cowboys, horses, travel and taking pictures. My husband Alan and I live on a farm. Our house is a few steps away from my studio, which is built over a state-of-the-art barn that houses our horses. At any given moment, I can take pictures from life - no staging allowed - with many of my works still being created from horseback with Alan (who is also my favorite cowboy) riding beside me.