Freeways & free ways

Catherine Opie photographs her subjects with uncompromising directness

By SRAHAM BAHR

The new work of the Los Angeles artist Catherine Opie, a photographer of则 landscape, has been on view in a solo exhibition at the Silver Eye Center for Photography in Madison, Wis. The show, which runs through April 24, features a body of work that is a departure from Opie's previous portraits that focus on people who live in the subculture of alternative lifestyles. The new work is a collection of photographs of Los Angeles freeways and their inhabitants, including a young woman who was killed in a car crash, a man who lives in a car, and a group of people who live in a trailer park.

Opie's work is characterized by a strong sense of place and a focus on the everyday lives of ordinary people. Her photographs of freeways and the people who live and work along them capture the essence of Los Angeles, a city that is defined by its traffic and its diversity. The freeways are depicted as a symbol of the city's energy and the constant movement of people and things.

A later series of photographs, taken in 1995, shows a group of people who live in the trailer park. The images are powerful and poignant, capturing the reality of their lives and the challenges they face. The images are a testament to Opie's ability to capture the essence of a place and the people who live in it.

Opie's work is a reminder of the importance of photography as a means of capturing the essence of a place and the people who live in it. It is a powerful reminder of the power of photography to document and to provide a window into the lives of others.