



A mobile home for sale, from *Trailer Life*.

At home with America's nomads

By MYRA McINTYRE

Trailer Life, Anne Kay, CCAS Cube, Gorman House, Ainslie Ave, Braddon, 10am-4pm, Wednesday to Saturday, Until April 21.

IN THE intimate space of the CCAS Cube and in four conceptually loaded photographs, Sydney artist Anne Kay addresses some aspects of the phenomenon of transience in *Trailer Life*.

Delegating the narrative to the now familiar mobile home or recreational vehicle, she explores the problematic relationship between the concepts of dwelling and mobility.

For thousands of years the nomadic lifestyle

Photography

of animals and humans has gone unquestioned when linked to survival requirements based on seasonal influences, predominantly weather and food supply.

Yet, in an affluent and technologically advanced country such as the United States where the social and physical amenities available would seem to support the probability of permanency, the prevalence of a transient existence is very high.

Travelling throughout the US, Kay noticed a

way of living that fitted none of the common preconceptions of modern habitation.

More than 12.5 million Americans live on the road.

Staying and going, going nowhere but never standing still, sound like lines from those old country songs that are played in small town cafes in the movies, but they typify emerging versions of modern dwelling which includes mobility.

Trailer life exists somewhere between the semi-settled existence of nomadic Mongolian herders following the seasons, and the permanently mobile long-haul truck drivers following the dollar.

Despite the absence of the human figure in her crisp Cibachrome images, the ongoing narrative of physical memories remain strewn across an unforgiving landscape.

The car wreck, the tiny and remote, rust-ridden camp, the mobile home waiting for its next owner, and the desert signpost restricting choices even further.

These are poignant morsels from Anne Kay's broader project on transience, mobility and fringe dwelling.