



STUMPED: This photograph of a Holden ute was snapped by Francesca Rosa at ETTY Bay in far north Queensland.

There's a fine art to ruining vintage cars

Kristin Shorten

MEMORIES of making out on the back seat of cars could explain why so few vintage beasts make it to the tip.

Francesca Rosa, photographer and senior art teacher at Anglican Church Grammar School (Churchie) in East Brisbane, thought that was one reason owners held on to cars past their use-by date. "It's probably only because they're nostalgic that (the owners) hold on to (the car)," she said.

Rosa, 38, has snapped 130 abandoned or derelict vehicles throughout north Queensland, with her Rolleiflex camera, over the past four years.

With photographer Alex Cyreszko from Sydney, the pair have created the exhibition *100 Ways to Ruin a Car*.



DECAYING BEAUTY: A Jeep on the side of the Bruce Highway in far north Queensland (above) and Francesca Rosa (above right).



Pictures: Francesca Rosa, Mark Calleja

It goes on display in Gippsland Art Gallery, east of Melbourne, from next Saturday.

Her fascination with cars was sparked in her home town of Innisfail in 2006.

"Originally . . . I saw this incredibly bright blue colour on the landscape and thought, 'wow, what a scene'," she said.

"With the cars, there's this wonderful aesthetic quality about them . . . I sort of see

them as these decaying art objects that reflect our own life, our transience on this earth."

Rosa planned to continue her passion. "I don't think I will ever stop," she said.