Kim Akerman: 
the art of Butcher Joe Nangan

Kim Akerman has been involved in Australian Indigenous issues for more than three decades. As well as working as an anthropologist in the WA State Public Service he has served with two Land Councils and been employed as a curator in three museums. At present he is a member of the Research advisory Council of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. Kim has written extensively on many aspects of Indigenous art and material culture.

Kim will provide an introduction and some insights into the art of the late Butcher Joe Nangan, Nyikina Lawman, Artist and Chronicler of indigenous history in the South West Kimberley. Butcher Joe, from the turn of the 20th century until his death in January 1989, lived on the Dampierland Peninsula, the country between the Fitzroy River and Broome and finally in Broome itself. In his lifetime Joe produced an astonishing record on paper and pearl shell, of the history and cosmology of the lands and people he was most familiar with.