



CELTS: ART AND IDENTITY
BRITISH MUSEUM EXHIBITION
DR JULIA FARLEY

THURSDAY 28 JANUARY

2,500 years ago, across northern Europe from the Atlantic to the Black Sea, the peoples identified by ancient Greek writers as the 'Celts' expressed their beliefs through curiously sophisticated and abstract art styles. The Greeks saw these outsiders as barbarians, far removed from the civilised world of the Mediterranean. They left no written records of their own, but archaeology and intense coordinated research is revealing new insights into how they lived based on the objects they left behind. Modern research suggests that these were disparate groups rather than a single people, linked by their unique stylised art. This set them apart from the classical world, but their technological accomplishments stand on a par with the finest achievements of Greek and Roman artists. Objects decorated with sinuous organic forms and fantastic animals were used for feasting, religious ceremonies, adornment and warfare; rich with hidden meanings, many of the designs remain mysterious to us today. This first major exhibition ever to examine the full history of Celtic art and identity as revived and reinvented over the centuries across Britain, Europe and beyond, will be a revelation.

MEET 10:30 am coffee for 11 am lecture at the British Museum
ENDS 3:30pm at the British Museum
COST £65 members, £75 non-members, including coffee and curatorial lecture at the British Museum, entry. Lunch with Nicholas at the Plough on Museum Street is optional (circa £20 including drinks): please indicate on your booking form whether you wish to join him.