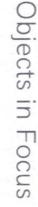
The British Museum







Spirits of the Wild Exploring the World of Animal Worship

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Spirits of the Wild

Exploring the World of Animal Worship

which evolved with human civilization. The animals are worshiped in various forms such as totems, spirits, as nature, as well as the relationship between the two worlds. and goddesses. Such traditions tell us about humans and vehicles of the principle deities and as incarnations of gods The worshiping of animals has been an ancient practice

was guarding crops from wild animals, such as boars. They were unable to tame them or predict their attacks in the worship from Tulu (India) and Shona (Zimbabwe) cultures. beginning. colonies around their agricultural fields, their main concern appeased in order to be controlled. When nomadic people destructive nature of wild animals and how they came to be became agriculturalists and settled into habitations and The mask of Panjurli from the Tulu region explores the This exhibition brings together two diverse forms of animal

represents the traditional modes of perceiving the landscape and managing the land. He signifies a fusion of language, religion and education and a world of benevolent and world through the spirit animal. Tsuro, for Zimbabweans, clan is the custodian of the rabbit and mediates the mystic mostly live in the north of Zimbabwe. Thus the Mugombi spirit animal of the Mugombi clan, the Nhire people who community are not upheld. punishments the dead can inflict if the moral values of the malevolent spirits which is symbolic of the terrible Tsuro is on the other hand not worshipped directly but is the

Bhuta Mask of Boar Spirit Panjurli

Cast brass 19th Century Tulu Nadu, Karnataka, India Brooke Sewell Permanent Fund 1995,1004.1

Panjurli's name is derived from the Tulu word for piglet. The mask captures the ferociousness of the wild boar. In the Kola ceremony wearing of the mask marks the complete manifestation of the spirit. The masks are kept and worshipped in small shrines dedicated to the spirits. This kind of masks are also made of areca nut bark and wood. The gaps provided at nostrils and mouth facilitates view for the impersonator.

