

Lily Sachs started a

Busy scu

'one-man' s

THE Johannesburg sculptress Lily Sachs will be holding an exhibition at the "Gallery 101" from tomorrow.

For the past year Mrs. Sachs has worked night and day preparing new and smaller bronze, stone and wood sculptures for the exhibition.

"I have been trying to create a feeling of monumentality in these pieces," she told me when I spoke to her in her studio in Lower Houghton, where she is putting the final touches to her work. She said she could not hold a full-scale exhibition previously because she had been working on commissions.

Personality

These commissions have included architectural sculpture for the Alexander Theatre, Johannesburg, The Hillbrow Club, Johannesburg, the fountains at Lichtenburg and a circular staircase depicting South African animal life at Reinsurance House, Johannesburg.

Commenting on her work and her development as a sculptress, Mrs. Sachs said she had now managed to develop her own personality in her work.

"I concentrate on flowing lines, movement and the relationship between space and form. I try to express the

Lily Sachs seen with the central piece of her exhibition in Gallery 101, Johannesburg, which is called "Spanish Dancer." This is the largest piece and is in stone.

By

Jill Denoon

essence of my forms by getting rid of unnecessary detail — thus the simplicity," said Mrs. Sachs.

Painter

WHEN I asked her which sculptors had most influenced her she said: "I try to think I am not influenced by Henry Moore."

Lily Sachs began her artistic career as a painter. "I have painted since I was a small child," she remembers.

She studied art at the Technical College Art School, Johannesburg, and continued her studies at the University of the Witwatersrand's Fine Art Department.

"I was fortunate to be able to study painting in Paris for a year with Andre Lhote — this was in 1947.

"There were so many different art trends and influences in Paris during this post-war period that I became confused. As a result I decided not to paint again and on my return to South Africa I turned to sculpture.

Kottler

FUNNILY enough, while I was in Paris I showed my drawings to Friez who kept telling me how three dimensional they were. Until then I had not thought of sculpture.

"Back in South Africa I had the good fortune to be taught

as a painter

Sculptress holds show

her first "one-man" exhibition

by Moses Kottler, who doesn't usually take pupils. He took on Rhona Stern and myself simultaneously.

"I met Kottler the other day and he said: I don't approve of what you are doing — or of Rhona Stern's work, either!"

Turning to the sculptures on display in her studio, Mrs. Sachs said she found wood-carving the most interesting.

"It is the warmth that one can achieve using wood as a medium that I find so pleasing. Then, too, one can create a beautiful flowing line."

Mrs. Sachs said she found it fascinating to "release the figure inside the log."

Tomorrow

SPEAKING of the sculpture of tomorrow, she said: "As far as I can see, the work of tomorrow will turn towards the use of the human form. It will move away from complete



abstraction, but will not be wholly realistic."

She said that she had definitely been influenced by

Lily Sachs considers "Mother and Child," to be one of her most important pieces. "I tried to create the feeling of tension of the child clinging to the mother," she said.

the African way of life in her work: "Their forms are so different and interesting, and their life unique.

"As you can see, it is easy to trace my work from the purely academic pieces which I did during my training to the present abstract pieces."

Pool

ASKED about her future plans, she said: "I have been commissioned by Anglo American and have completed a model for a 30-foot pool which will be built outside the building, Edura, in Commissioner Street, Johannesburg. It will have mining figures in bronze against stone with fountains.

"I have also been invited to submit two pieces of sculpture to the all-South African exhibition to celebrate the Republican Festival."