

A qualified architect, a self-taught welder in direct metal, a big solitary man who has lived out of touch with the gossipy art world – this is the background to a new powerful sculptural talent which has burst on the South African art world.

Richard Lacey is his name. And, in co-operation with Gallery 101, he holds his first one-man show of sculpture on his farm just outside Johannesburg, from April 8.

Richard Lacey has been living on his farm on the Old Rustenburg Road in the six years since he has returned from living abroad. He qualified as an architect in London, worked there for several years. But it has only been since his return to South Africa that he has turned to sculpture.

His themes are African, often religious but still with an underlying African-ness, his technique and vision masterful and bold, his sculptures are big: some of them too big to be placed in a city gallery – some stand 12ft high, but even the small domestic pieces (some 6in tall) have a characteristic sense of bigness about them.

Richard Lacey's exhibition, where he will show his pieces in domestic settings and in the open air, runs for two weeks.