Athi-Patra Ruga was born Umtata, South Africa in 1984 and lives and works in both Johannesburg and Cape Town. He explores the border-zones between fashion, performance and contemporary art, through work that exposes and subverts the body in relation to structure, ideology and politics.

Bursting with eclectic multicultural references, carnal sensuality and a dislocated undercurrent of humour, his performances, videos, costumes and photographic images create a world where cultural identity is no longer determined by geographical origins, ancestry or biological disposition, but is increasingly becoming a hybrid construct.

Ruga’s The Future of White Women of Azania – The Founding Myth was part of the South African pavilion at the 55th Venice Biennale in 2013.

He was also recently included in the Phaidon book Younger Than Jesus, a directory of over 500 of the world’s best artists under the age of 33.