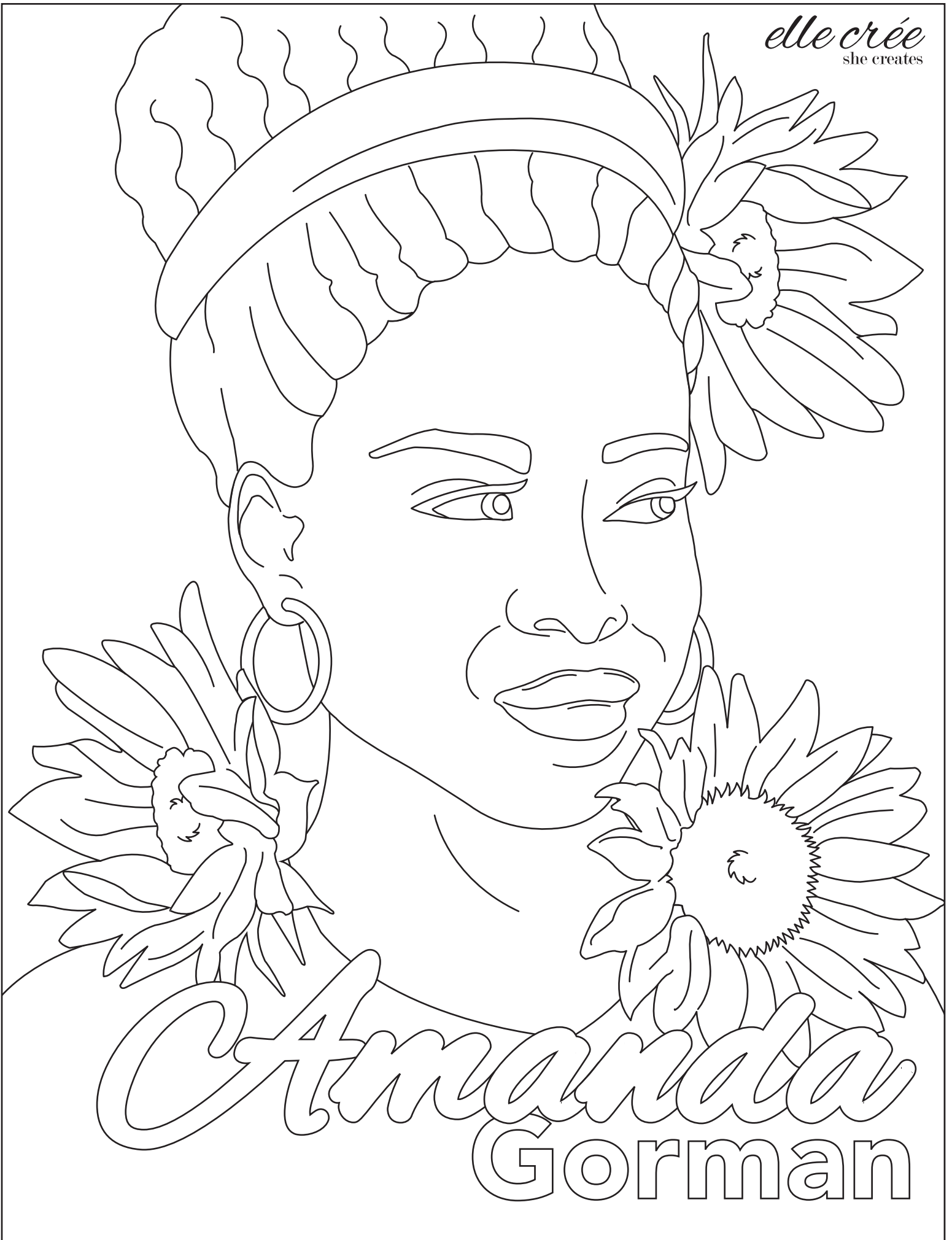


elle crée
she creates



Amanda
Gorman

About Amanda Gorman (1998 –)

First National Youth Poet Laureate

“Being American is more than a pride we inherit,
It’s the past we step into and how we repair it.”

From *The Hill We Climb*

Born in Los Angeles, Amanda and her two siblings were raised by a single mother who works as an English teacher. Amanda credits music and oration with helping her to overcome a speech impediment that hindered her from giving voice to her words even as she became a notable poet in high school and early college.

Her work focuses on issues of oppression, race, and feminism. In 2015, she published a book of poetry entitled *The One for Whom Food Is Not Enough*. In 2016 She founded a non-profit called One Pen One Page, which offered leadership and writing instruction to children in under-served communities. In 2017 she became the nation's First Youth Poet Laureate. She graduated with honors from Harvard University in 2020.

At the age of 22 she became the youngest known poet to speak at a presidential inauguration. Her recitation of her poem *The Hill We Climb* provided a poignant moment for a nation in turmoil following the riots at the Capital building two weeks prior. Amanda has said that she finished her poem, which focuses on reconciliation, after watching the riots unfold.

“We lift our gazes not to what stands between us
but what stands before us.
We close the divide because we know,
to put our future first,
we must first put our differences aside.”

Her words inspired a nation. Amanda has said that she plans to run for president herself in 2036.