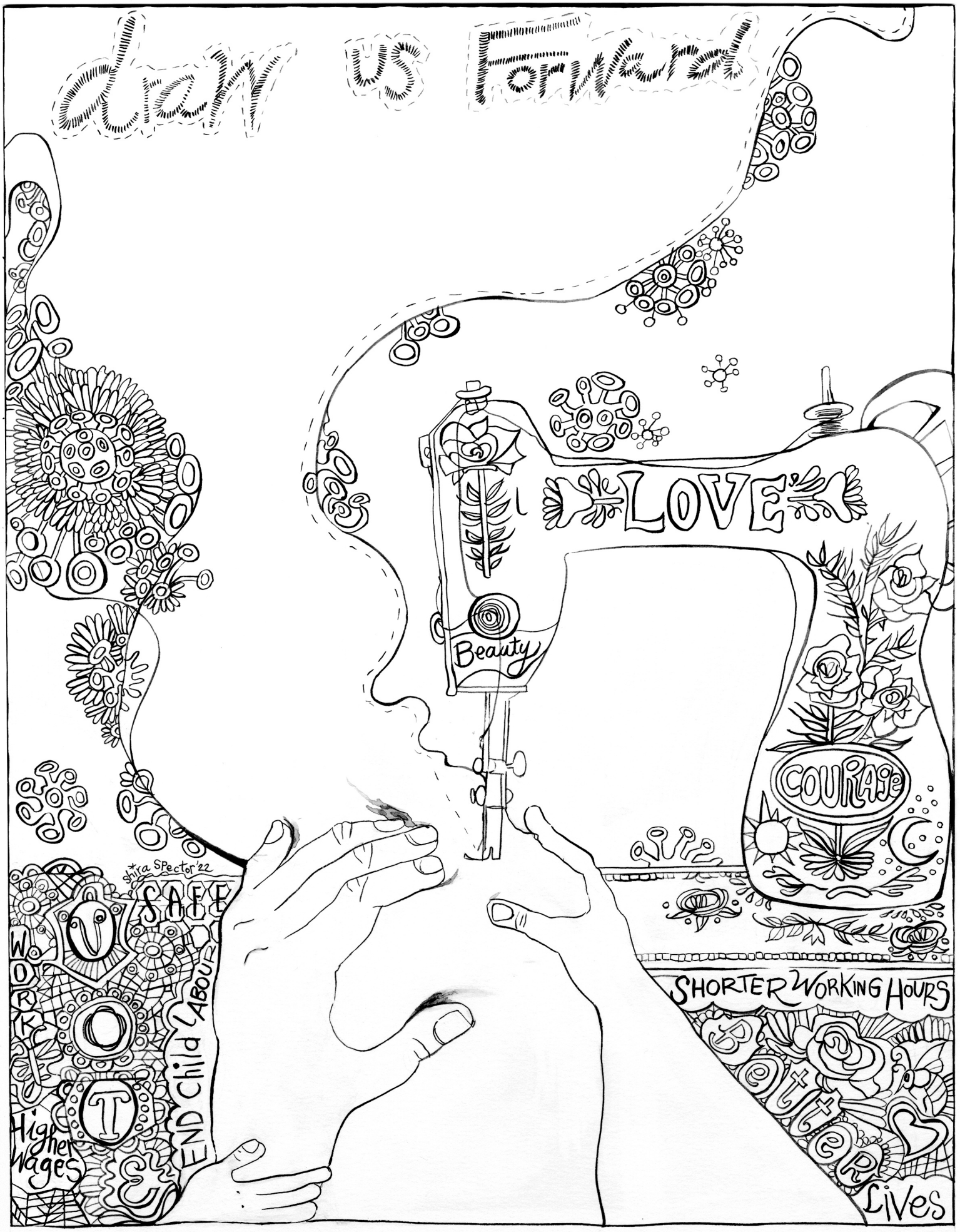
Shira Spector

The sewing machine in this image belongs to the era of the New York Needle Trade Union's 1908 March 8 Demonstration and the following year's Shirtwaist Maker's uprising led by young, immigrant, working-class women. Literally "on the table" is a lace covering embedded with some of their demands, still relevant today. I chose to centre textile imagery as a way to bind the momentum of past social justice struggles with our present and future ones.
My deepest hope is in gathering strength from our ancestors, using creativity, love and courage to draw us forward through the pandemic into better times.

Photo by Zoë Gemelli


Clothes
is Sacred
LOVE
Beauty
COURAGE
SHORTER WORKING HOURS
Better
Lives
SAFE
WORK
END Child LABOUR
Higher Wages
Shira Spector '22