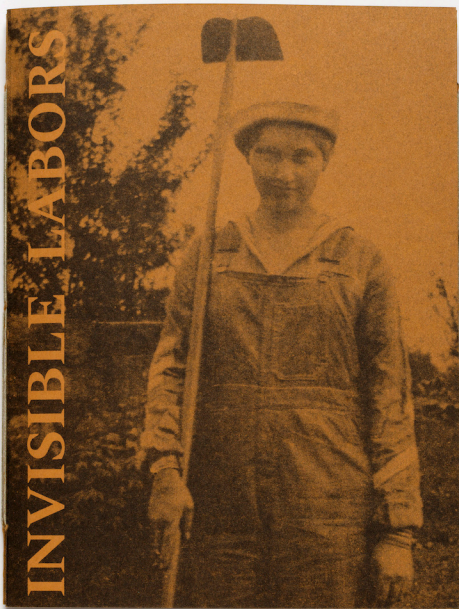
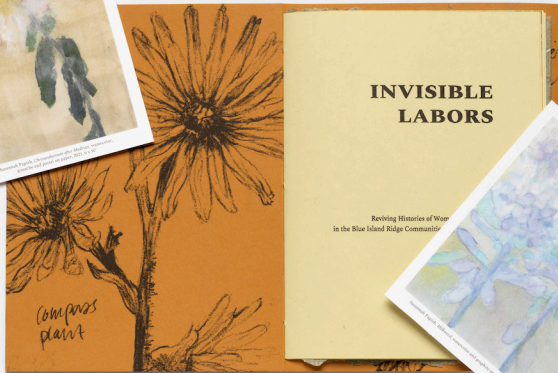


INVISIBLE LABORS





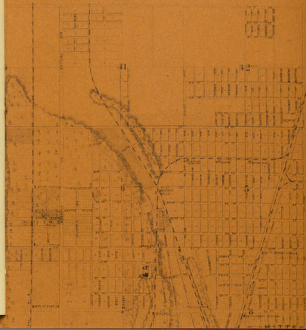




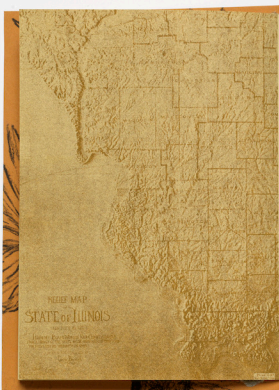
# AND RIDGE

AND ONE MILE WIDE

ENGLEWOOD ON THE HILL, BEVERLY HILLS,  
D. WALDEN, TRACY, WASHINGTON HEIGHTS, BELMONT,  
PARK, PURINGTON & BLUE ISLAND.



Alma Krillig 1901. Washed her own wash, c. 1901. 7 x 10  
Courtesy of Thomas McEntee Gallery



Melissa Potter (Registered By)      Clark / Boundary Mogan Park (Location)      June 6, '22 (Date)

**PRODUCTION OF PULP FOR PAPER**

Fiber Burdock - collection of young and mature stems, one seedling  
Cooking Method soda-ash Time 2 hrs - due to wet weight ratio  
Beating Method hand Time 5 min. not estimated  
Storage (if applicable) refrigerator Time one week  
Formation sample mould Mould Size 3 x 5 inches  
Additives ✓ Drainage medium  
Formation Comments Young stems cooked a bit too much, but still maintained duck-like characteristics. Mature stems strings will break down with further beating.  
Couching/Felts clamp top + press between blotter  
Pressing " " Drying " "  
Sizing ✓ Finishing ✓

MELISSA H. POTTER

***“Heart of mother,  
strength of brother,  
yield the maiden  
of your pride!”***

Early in our research, a photograph of young Kate Starr Kellogg on her family's seventy-acre farm captured the spirit of our project. Her career as an education reformer in Chicago at the turn of the century contributed to greater access and outcomes for children on the south side. Unfortunately, there's not much record of her. Though Kate Starr Kellogg's sister, Alice Kellogg, has a biographical page in the book, *Women Building Chicago: 1790 - 1990*, Kate is only a footnote on that page.

One of the challenges in writing or making art about the invisible labors of female artists during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century is the lack of visual and written material. This holds especially true for Kate Starr Kellogg. However, thanks to the Ridge Historical Society historians, we found this wonderful portrait of her.

Kate Starr Kellogg, c. 1870. Collection of JoAnne W. Bowlin, Bartonsville, Arkansas.





After conversations with Potter and others involved with the history of this area, I discovered a rich, intermingled history of female land keepers and stewards, including Potawatomi women, gardeners and farmers, artists, progressive educators, and social activists. The more we talked, the more we became inspired to develop an artist publication devoted to this subject. We developed a long list of women from the Ridge who fit these categories in multiple ways. The richness of their lives and contributions was immense and it was difficult to decide who to include. The fascinating and mostly under-discovered histories of the women we selected and the manner in which the then-rural landscape influenced their work are essential to the narrative of this publication. Antishimabe artist and basket maker, Kelly Church, has carried on the tradition of the Potawatomi basket weavers who harvested the bark from Black Ash trees in the south Chicagoland to create unique and soulful baskets.

We also delve into the work of educator Kate Starr Kellogg and her sister, artist Alice DeWolf Kellogg Tyler, who were both deeply involved with Jane Addams's Hull House. Established by Addams and Ellen Gates Starr in 1889, Hull House was a settlement house.



LITTLE, J.A., Pottawattamie Indian Basket Weavers, postcard, 1909

The upper portion of this and previous pages is greatly indebted to the assistance of the Antishimabe Society and other persons among the descendants of the women mentioned.



Kingbury, Arthur. "Indian Basket Sellers." Three Anishinaabe women selling baskets standing by a tree. Photograph, 1909. Photo: Courtesy of the Wisconsin Historical Society.

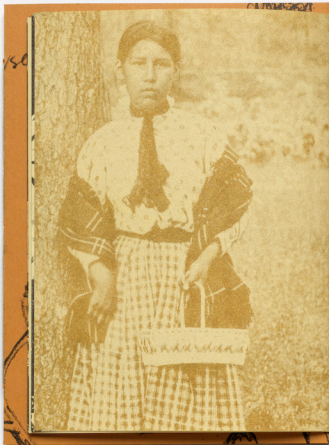


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### 3. What is the future of black ash baskets?

I believe the future of black ash basketry traditions is in a fragile state due to the decimation of ash trees by the emerald ash borer. The need to pass on these traditions in person and firsthand with [our] youth is more important than ever. The need to collect and save seeds correctly for future generations to replant is critical. Black ash trees only seed every five to seven years, and the EAB can devastate an entire ash stand in three to five [years]. Black ash seeds are viable for up to thirty years when stored properly. I see the tradition of black ash continuing with concentrated efforts and with seed replanting in the future. I see my community of Anishinaabe people as survivors and are resilient. Where there is a will there is a way. We are strong, resilient, and have the will. I will continue to share black ash traditions with my Anishinaabe and other native communities as long as I am able. The black ash basket-making communities of the northeast have been working together with researchers who study EAB and this will help ensure the sustainability of our black ash traditions for future generations by saving seeds, finding controlled areas to replant, and continuing teachings as long as we are able.

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Lead  
Plant



#### COLOPHON

Invisible Labors: Reviving Histories of Women's Land Work  
in the Blue Island Ridge Conservancies, Chicago, Illinois  
A project by boundary, Susannah Papish, Hirotoori, and Melissa H. Potter, 2022  
Images: Susannah Papish and Melissa H. Potter

Interview: Melissa H. Potter with Kelly Church  
Design/Layout & Creative Collaborators: Tamara Becerra Valdes  
Book Structure Assistance: Melissa H. Potter

Editor: Shauna Yerman  
Paintings by Susannah Papish  
Plant Drawings by Rene Aranzamendez and Melissa H. Potter  
Handmade book cover by Melissa H. Potter with material sourced from the  
Invisible Labors Garden, boundary, Morgan Park, Chicago, Illinois

Historical Research: Jane Adams Hull House Museum, The Chicago Public Library,  
The Field Museum, Thomas McCormick Gallery, Ridge Historical Society and  
The Wisconsin Historical Society

Rinograph printed by Jacob Lindgren. Postcards printed by Columbia College Chicago.

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*Invisible Labors* was printed in a rinograph edition of 50 as well as a deluxe edition of 50.

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*Melissa Potter*

