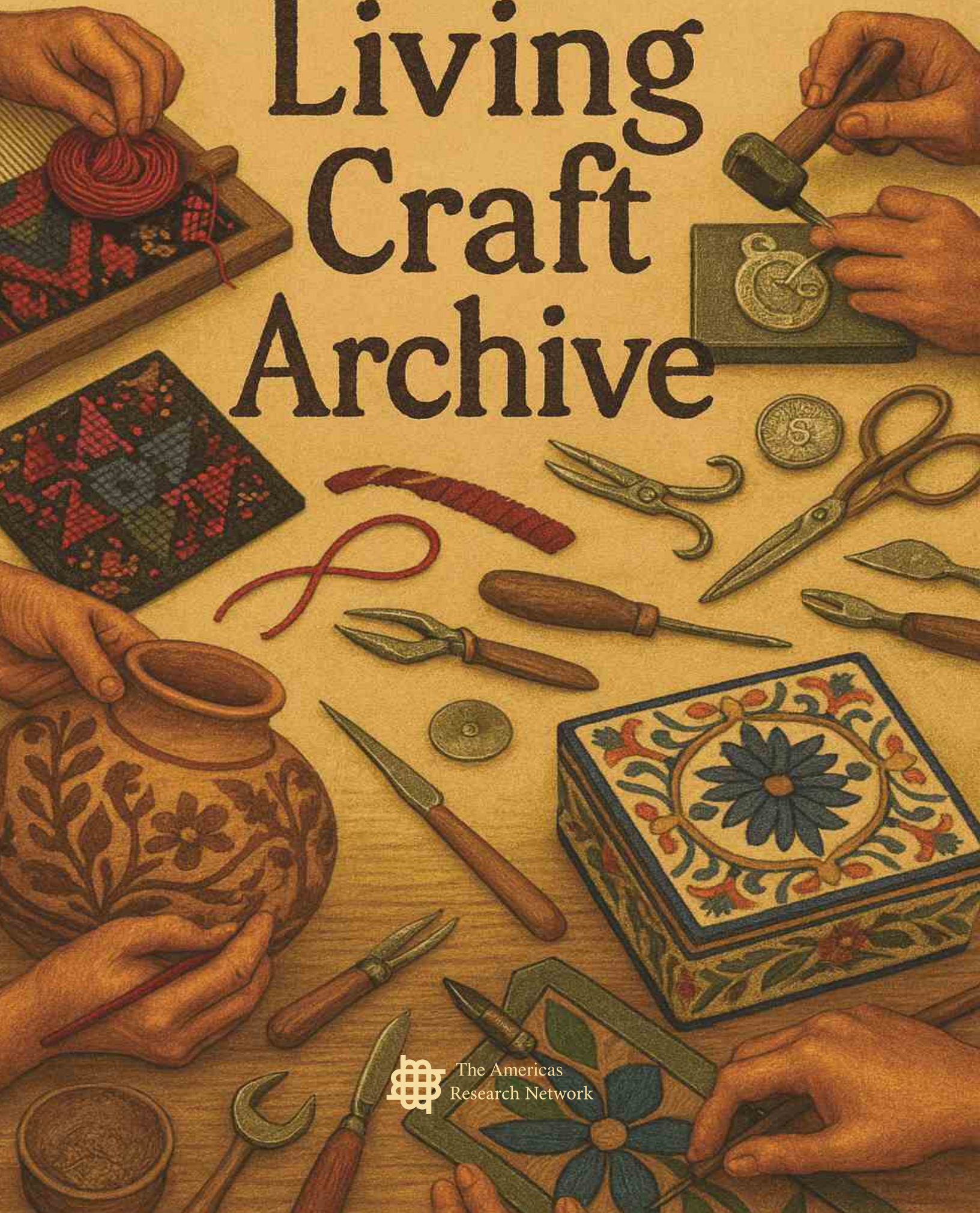


Living Craft Archive



The Americas
Research Network

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The memory of a people is woven with threads of tradition.

What is it?

Living Craft Archive is a project focused on the preservation, documentation and revitalization of artisanal knowledge at risk of disappearing. Through a documentary, digital iconography, and a collective piece, it aims to transmit the cultural value of these crafts, ensuring their continuity and recognition in their original language.

By promoting local, sustainable materials and intergenerational knowledge transfer, the project supports environmentally conscious practices and strengthens local economies through fair trade and visibility. This initiative may lay the groundwork for community museums and cooperatives in artisan communities, positioning craft as both cultural and economic driver.

Why this project matters?

Many artisanal practices—especially those transmitted orally and linked to original languages—are at serious risk of disappearing due to migration, industrial reproduction, generational gaps, environmental loss and cultural displacement.

Living Craft Archive arises from the urgency to document, recognize, and revitalize these crafts as living legacies and tools for cultural resistance. By preserving the full creative process and the words used to name it, **the project ensures that these languages and techniques do not vanish silently.**

Step 1: Documentary and Training

Production of a documentary that records the entire artisanal process of a piece at risk of extinction, including:

- * Collection of raw materials and associated rituals
- * Creation of the piece and its cultural significance
- * Testimonies from artisans in their original language
- * Intergenerational workshops for the teaching of the craft

Step 2: Digitalization of Iconography and Educational Material

Research and digitalization of traditional iconography, ensuring its preservation and understanding. The following will be generated:

- * Graphic records with names in the original language
- * Physical and digital publications accessible to the community
- * Educational materials for transmission



Step 3: Collective Piece and Exhibition

Creation of a collective piece that integrates the documented iconography, accompanied by:

- ★ An exhibition including the documentary and digital materials
- ★ Educational programs to strengthen knowledge transmission
- ★ Community dialogue spaces for knowledge appropriation
- ★ Design of a community exhibition

Ethical and Conceptual Framework

This project is guided by a community-centered, decolonial, and intergenerational approach.

All documentation is carried out with free, prior and informed consent of the artisans involved, respecting their voice, narrative, and agency. The goal is not only to preserve a technique, but also to honor the worldview and symbolic value behind each thread, each gesture, and each word.

Scan to view a sample of the documentary:

Tamachij Chihuahua,
La Resistencia se borda a mano



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