

The Last Page

Does poetry play a role in social change?

Yes, where poetry is liberative language,
connecting the fragments within us,
connecting us to others like and unlike ourselves,
replenishing our desire.

It's potentially catalytic speech because it's more than speech:
it is associative, metaphoric, dialectical, visual, musical;
in poetry words can say more than they mean and
mean more than they say.

In a time of frontal assaults both on language and on
human solidarity, poetry can remind us of all we are in
danger of losing – disturb us, embolden us out of resignation.

Interview with Adrienne Rich
Radcliffe Quarterly (Fall 1998)