

Each of us is here now because in one way or another we share a commitment to language and to the power of language, and to the reclaiming of that language which has been made to work against us. In the transformation of silence into language and action, it is vitally necessary for each one of us to establish or examine her function in that transformation, and to recognize her role as vital within that transformation.

For those of us who write, it is necessary to scrutinize not only the truth of what we speak, but the truth of that language by which we speak it. For others, it is to share and spread also those words that are meaningful to us. But primarily for us all, it is necessary to teach by living and speaking those truths which we believe and know beyond understanding. Because in this way alone we can survive, by taking part in a process of life that is creative and continuing, that is growth.

Audre Lorde (1934-1992), from “The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action,” as published in *The Cancer Journals* (1980)

In our call for submissions for this, the issue of *Amplify: A Journal of Writing-as-Activism* to follow our debut last summer, we invited activists, writers, artists, and each other to engage deeply with questions of language and its relationships to power, to trauma, to violence, to resistance, to insistence, to solidarity, to kinship, to change. To share in that commitment to language and its power that Lorde speaks to as a dimension and vessel of communication, change, and survival. To grapple with language as it connects and complicates, harms and heals—to converse with the parts of ourselves, our experiences, and our worlds that ache and chafe against silence, so to speak.

Within this second issue of *Amplify*, you will witness the breaking and remaking of silence in the ways these writers and activists speak up, speak out, and speak powerfully to questions of identity, expression, and impact as they each examine and embody truth as spoken to power.

The cover art of this issue is part of a larger collage accompanying contributor Corinne Othenin-Girard’s set of poems entitled “Language Was My Home,” through which she speaks to words, memory, place, and meaning as they relate to her experiences living with aphasia.

Each of us, including you, reading this, now, is taking part in that process of life, change, and action that Lorde’s words compel us to carry forward in each and every word, so to speak, and we are humbled to welcome readers, accomplices, and you, to the second issue of *Amplify: A Journal of Writing-as-Activism: So to Speak*.

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Lorde, A. (1980). The transformation of silence into language and action. *The cancer journals* (1st ed.) (pp. 13-18). Spinsters, Ink.

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