

Description of project:

Operation "Sunnylands" will be a multimedia mockumentary about Richard Nixon's stay on pardon day (September 8, 1974) at "Sunnylands" in Rancho Mirage CA, winter retreat of the late billionaire media mogul, philanthropist and diplomat Walter Annenberg.

The project breaks a story undetected in Watergate's aftermath: The 37th president *in extremis* under the noses of golfing Secret Service agents and a security guard named Wilson, a Coachella Valley local with other irons in the fire.

Video No. 1 – at the gates of "Sunnylands" a reporter announces a leak of transcripts and tape; the report can be presented as "live" from "Sunnylands" or HDTs 2013 HQ.

Text No. 1 – Secret Service assessment of the estate's hothouse environment; on-course art could endanger Nixon the golfer.

Text No. 2 – Wilson's seemingly innocuous surveillance is grounds for termination (extra-judiciary and permanent, if necessary) or promotion, according to one's political orientation.

Text No. 3 – Annenberg treasure causes a Nixon meltdown. (No, art had not been on Nixon's radar. Yes, his quarters were bugged. Was the Secret Service behind it or his host?)

Audio – one or all: incidental music by a San Diego composer, reenactment of **Text No. 1**, narration of **Text No. 2**.

Description of site:

The online installation will be located at the website for my New Monuments Golf Club (<http://newmonumentsgc.com>). It would be supplemented by a "Sunnylands" stop on the HDTs 2013 tour, if such a visit can be arranged.

"Sunnylands" is located in Rancho Mirage on Bob Hope Drive and in cyberspace at <http://sunnylands.org>. Today a 501(c)(3) nonprofit operating entity, it bills itself as "a place of tranquility and hospitality where national and international leaders from a range of fields – beginning with the President of the United States – may convene to 'promote world peace and facilitate international agreement.'"

Duration of project:

Long-term installation.

Supporting material:

New Monuments G.C. preview page
(<http://newmonumentsgc.com/?portfolio=preview-september-8-1974-sunnylands-rancho-mirage-ca>).

Operation "Sunnylands" joins my other interventions at New Monuments Golf Club, where I explore a world commonly perceived as "square" in terms of literature, art and philosophy. In the new "course" documenting Nixon's retreat to Annenberg's retreat, two monuments – the Presidency and "Sunnylands" – are exposed to the elements. There is no escape from crisscrossing golf carts, irrigation drip lines, geologic fault lines, evangelists, roadrunners, political/governmental operatives and mirages.