EN EM Art Space is pleased to present OFF THE GRID, a group exhibition of works curated by Susette Min, Associate Professor at UC Davis. Please join us on Saturday, June 13th, 6:00 – 9:00 pm for the opening reception and to meet the curator.

OFF THE GRID explores the formal, social, and environmental aspects of the grid. The exhibition presents works of art that offer alternative ways of engaging the grid, challenging its discursive and conceptual confines, and liberating its structural coordinates through concept and form.

Historically, the horizontal and vertical lines of the grid can be traced to the spatial development of ancient cities in Greece, Egypt, and China. The grid has also been deployed politically as a tool to create a normative order, and has been conceived as an autonomous, autotelic, and austere space of modernity. Within the context of modern art, the grid serves as an important figure that is all surface—flat and geometric—or is seen as a pure visual structure and, at bottom, a masculine construct.

While conceding that the grid has become ubiquitous, such that even social media sites including Instagram use the grid as a default mode to "change the way we see the world," OFF THE GRID argues that, on the contrary, the grid remains a central and contentious form and concept in discussions of power, politics, and aesthetics. By attempting to make connections between multiple significations of the grid, OFF THE GRID addresses the possibilities of unleashing its bold and tensile energy, dismantling it, or rejecting it in order to imagine life and art differently.