### Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Nanoscale. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2018

## **Supporting Information**

# Layer-by-Layer Manipulation of Anisotropic Nanoblocks : Orientation-Switched Superlattices through Orthogonal Stacking of a and c Directions

Yoshitaka Nakagawa, Riho Matsumoto, Hiroyuki Kageyama, Yuya Oaki, and Hiroaki Imai\*

Department of Applied Chemistry, Faculty of Science and Technology, Keio University, 3-14-1 Hiyoshi, Kohoku-ku, Yokohama 223-8522, Japan

Email: hiroaki@applc.keio.ac.jp

Contents

### Additional information

Schematic illustrations of the fabrication of *a*-face 2D arrays consisting of  $Mn_3O_4$  rectangular nanoblocks through a convective self-assembly method (Figure S1)

Schematic illustration of different formation processes of *a*-face and *c*-face  $_{2}D$  arrays consisting of  $Mn_{3}O_{4}$  rectangular nanoblocks (Figure S<sub>2</sub>)

Another types of orientation-switched superlattices (Figure S<sub>3</sub>)

#### Additional information



**Figure S1.** Schematic illustrations of the fabrication of *a*-face 2D arrays consisting of  $Mn_3O_4$  rectangular nanoblocks through a convective self-assembly method (a-c). TEM image of the 2D arrays formed from the 1D chains (d).

*a*-face 2D arrays consisting of  $Mn_3O_4$  rectangular nanoblocks were fabricated through a convective self-assembly method (Figure Sia). In previous works (ref. 2, 25), self-assembly of nanocubes and nanorods was reported to occur at the air-liquid interface. As shown in Figure. Sib, the broad {100} faces of the nanocuboids located at the air-liquid interface are parallel to the interface due to their hydrophobic property. When the air-liquid interface shrinks with the evaporation of the dispersion medium, 1D chains are formed by aligning the nanocuboids facing the other {100} faces with lateral capillary force. The *a*-face 2D arrays are produced by parallel assembly of the linear chains (Figure Sic). Figure Sid shows 2D arrays formed with floating small 1D chains. This result suggests that 2D arrays are formed through assembly of linear chains by a lateral capillary force at the air-liquid-substrate interface.



**Figure S2**. Schematic illustration of formation processes of *a*-face and *c*-face  $_{2}D$  arrays consisting of  $Mn_{3}O_{4}$  rectangular nanoblocks through a convective self-assembly method from toluene-hexane mixture and hexane, respectively.

Because the evaporation rate of hexane is higher than that of the mixture of toluene and hexane, 2D clusters of the nanoblocks are easily formed through a rapid increase in particle concentration in the dispersion near the evaporation front. 2D clusters assemble into *c* face 2D arrays through the assembly of on a substrate after evaporation.



**Figure S3**. SEM image (a), corresponding FFT pattern (b), and schematic illustration of *a*-*c*-switched superlattices (c). SEM image (d), corresponding FFT pattern (e), and schematic illustration of *a*-*c*-*a*-switched superlattices (f).