Supporting Information

Wide Gamut Biomimetic Structural Colors from Interference Assisted Two-Photon Polymerization

Hongcheng Gu¹, Xiaojiang Liu¹, Zhongde Mu², Qiong Wang¹, Haibo Ding¹, Xin Du¹, Zhongze Gu^{1, *}

 State Key Laboratory of Bioelectronics, School of Biological Science and Medical Engineering, Southeast University, Nanjing 210096, China

 Jiangsu Cancer Hospital, Jiangsu Institute of Cancer Research, Nanjing Medical University Affiliated Cancer Hospital, Nanjing, 210009, China

Email: gu@seu.edu.cn



Figure S1. SEM images of various structures printed by the interference-assisted TPP technique. (a) Top view of an array of voxels with multilayer structures, of which some were tilted or collapsed. (b) Oblique view (~36° tilted) of a collapsed box frame with multilayer structures, top right corner is the scheme of a $20 \times 20 \times 12 \ \mu\text{m}^3$ box. *d* denotes the distance between two adjoining layers. Red arrows indicate the separation of layers. (c) Top view of parallel laser scanning paths with various line distances, corresponding to schemes *iii-vi* in Figure S2.



Figure S2. Schematic illustration of laser scanning trajectories (a) and the polymerized multilayer structures (b). The femtosecond laser works in pulse mode (*i* and *ii*) at low (*i*) and high (*ii*) repeat rates, or in continuous mode (*iii-vi*), which turns the sequential voxels into continuous lines (*iii*) or even a block (*vi*) as the line distance decreases gradually.



Figure S3. SEM images of BSC pixels (a) and the relationship between the feature size and the laser power (b) or the focus depth (c). Each feature size was measured 10 times and averaged. The red arrows indicate the accumulated heat-induced explosions, and the green arrows indicate the layer separations.



Figure S4. (a-c) SEM images of three columns of BSC pixels with CVPs (0.3, p, 0.0, 3000) (a), (0.6, p, 0.0, 3000) (b) and (1.0, p, 0.0, 3000) (c). The laser power increased from 8 mW to 28 mW in steps of 2 mW for each column. Red arrows indicate the photoresist explosions. *M*: multilayer interference, *H*: hybrid, *F*: thin-film interference, *X*: explosions.



Figure S5. The aspect ratio of a TPP voxel. (a) Schematic illustration of a voxel with the aspect ratio of 3. The horizontal intercept (lateral feature size *s*) decreases gradually to the focus depth *f*. (*i*) $s = 0.866 \times (2s_2)$ at $f = 0.5 s_1$; (*ii*) $s = 0.715 \times (2s_2)$ at $f = 0.7 s_1$; (*iii*) $s = 0.436 \times (2s_2)$ at $f = 0.9 s_1$. (b) SEM image of a woodpile structure with the aspect ratio (s_1/s_2) of ~3.



Figure S6. Geometrical configurations of the multilayer interference (a) and the thinfilm interference (b) for the FDTD simulation. The dotted blue squares indicate the simulation regions. Default values for the parameters are: N = 3, a = 1000 nm, s = 300nm, $d_1 = 200$ nm, h = 200 nm. $d_0 + d_1 = 256.6$ nm was constant.



Figure S7. (a-h) Optical microscope images of eight *v-p-f* palettes printed by using CVP (1.0, *p*, *f*, *v*) and three parameter sweeps: (1) *v* increased from 500 μ m s⁻¹ to 6400 μ m s⁻¹ as a geometric series with a constant ratio of 2 for (a-h); (2) *p*(8 : 1 : 34) (unit: mW) along the *y*-direction within each palette; (3) *f*(0.00 : 0.05 : 1.05) (unit: μ m) along the *x*-direction within each palette. *a* = 1.0 μ m was constant. The size of each pixel is 25 × 25 μ m². *M*: multilayer interference, *H*: hybrid, *X*: explosions, *N*: null.



Figure S8. (a-j) Optical microscope images of ten *v-p-f* palettes printed by using CVP (1.0, *p*, *f*, *v*) and three parameter sweeps: (1) *v*(1000 : 1000 : 10000) (unit: μ m s⁻¹) for (a-j); (2) *p*(8 : 1 : 34) (unit: mW) along the *y* direction within each palette; (3) *f*(0.00 : 0.05 : 1.05) (unit: μ m) along the *x* direction within each palette. *a* = 1.0 μ m was constant. The size of each pixel is 25 × 25 μ m². *M*: multilayer interference, *H*: hybrid, *X*: explosions, *N*: null.



Figure S9. (a-1) Optical microscope images of twelve *f-p-a* palettes printed by using CVP (*a*, *p*, *f*, 3000) and three parameter sweeps: (1) f(0.0 : 0.1 : 1.1) (unit: µm) for (a-1); (2) p(8 : 1 : 32) (unit: mW) along the *y* direction within each palette; (3) a(0.30 : 0.05 : 1.35) (unit: µm) along the *x* direction within each palette. v = 3000 µm⁻¹ was constant. The size of each pixel is 25×25 µm². *M*: multilayer interference, *H*: hybrid, *F*: thin-film interference, *X*: explosions, *N*: null.



Figure S10. SEM images of BSC pixels with various defects. (a) Layer separations. Top layers were partially or entirely peeled off and collapsed (*i*), overlapped (*ii*), and detached (*iii*). (b) Top layer was partially folded, and thus $h_{iii} < h_{ii} < h_i$ (*h* denotes the overall thickness). (c) The substrate was slightly tilted and thus made gradient focus depths along the *i*-*ii* direction. (d) The polymer layers exploded due to the accumulated heat effect under high laser powers. (e) Overhangs or accessories occurred between two adjoining lines (*i* was occupied, while *ii* was still clear). (f) The polymer lines were partially twisted, the arrows pointed to the narrower parts. Scale bars are 5 µm in (a-d) and 500 nm in (e, f).



Figure S11. (a-1) Optical microscope images of twelve *f-p-a* palettes printed by using CVP (*a*, 20, *f*, 3000) and two parameter sweeps of *f*(-0.1 : 0.1 : 1.0) (unit: μ m) for (a-1) and *a*(0.30 : 0.05 : 1.35) (unit: μ m) along the *x* direction within each palette. *p* = 20 mW and *v* = 3000 μ m s⁻¹ were constant. The size of each pixel is 25 × 25 μ m². *M*: multilayer interference, *H*: hybrid, *F*: thin-film interference, *N*: null.



Figure S12. Simulated reflection spectra of a thin film with various thickness: (a) h(200 : 5 : 150) (unit: μ m); (b) h(200 : 20 : 400) (unit: μ m); (c) h(500 : 10 : 600) (unit: μ m).



Figure S13. (a-f) Optical microscope images of six *a-v-f* palettes printed by using CVP (a, 20, f, v) and three parameter sweeps: (1) a(0.3 : 0.3 : 0.9) (unit: µm) for (a-c) and (d-f), respectively; (2) v(1500 : 1500 : 3000) (unit: µm s⁻¹) for the upper and the lower rows, respectively; (3) f(0.00 : 0.05 : 1.10) (unit: µm) along the *x* direction within each palette. p = 20 mW was constant. The size of each pixel is 25×25 µm².



Figure S14. Optical microscope (20X objective) images and the corresponding reflection spectra of various BSC pixels. (a) All pixels were printed with CVP (*a*, 20, 0.0, 3000). First row, rectangle pixels with various line distance: $a = 1.2 \mu m$ for rec1, $a = 1.2-2.0 \mu m$ (random) for rec2, and $a = 2.0 \mu m$ for rec3; second row, *sine*-shape pixels with various line distance: $a = 1.2 \mu m$ for sin1, $a = 1.2-2.0 \mu m$ (random) for sin2, and $a = 2.0 \mu m$ for sin3; the rest were typical pixels ($a = 1.0 \mu m$) with various side lengths ($L = 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140 \mu m$). (b) Scanning trajectories for the rectangle and the *sine*-shape pixels, the line distances of rec2 and sin2 were random numbers between 1.2 and 2.0 (unit: μm). (c, d) Reflection spectra of the typical (c), the rectangle, and the *sine*-shape pixels (d).



Figure S15. (a-h) Optical microscope (10X objective) images of eight groups of BSC pixels with various CVPs. (b) was enlarged in Figure S14a by using a 20X objective.



Figure S16. The color distribution of 20 selected BSC pixels from Figure S14a (10 pixels, red circles) and Figure S15b (10 pixels, black circles) in the CIE 1931 chromaticity diagram (a) and the HSV color space (b).



Figure S17. Optical microscope images of four groups of *butterfly*-shape pixels fabricated by using CVP (*a*, *p*, *f*, 3000) and three parameter sweeps: (1) f(0.0 : 0.1 : 0.3) (unit: µm) for these groups; (2) p(16 : 1 : 32) (unit: mW) along the *y* direction within each group; (3) a(0.5 : 0.1 : 1.0) (unit: µm) along the *x* direction within each group. $v = 3000 \text{ µm}^{-1}$ was constant. Each *butterfly*-shape pixel is $70 \times 50 \text{ µm}^2$.



Figure S18. The art painting of *cabin-in-hillside* with bigger pixels ($L = 140 \ \mu m$). (a, b) Optical microscope images of the blue (a) and yellow (b) pixels. (c) The researcher held an as-fabricated art painting on a 2.5 × 2.5 cm² silicon in front of the TPP system.



Figure S19. Calculation of the time cost and the related time efficiency of a single BSC pixel (a) or an art painting (b, c) by using pixels with various side lengths. (a) Time cost on a single pixel with constant CVP (1.0, 20, 0.0, 3000) but various L (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,

7, 8, 9, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140 μ m). The circles and the line were experimental data and fitted curve, respectively. (b) Five groups of the calculated time cost on a 1 cm² art painting using BSC pixels with various *L* (2.5, 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200 μ m). Five CVPs of (1.5, 20, 0.0, 1000), (1.5, 20, 0.0, 3000), (1.5, 20, 0.0, 10000), (1.0, 20, 0.0, 3000), and (2.0, 20, 0.0, 3000) were applied to each group, respectively. (c) The calculated time efficiency from (b).



Figure S20. (a) The calculated time cost of TPP printing of a 1 cm² art painting using BSC pixels with constant CVP (2.0, 20, 0.0, 3000) and various *L* (2.5, 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200 μ m). Various stage velocities of 50, 75, and 100 μ m s⁻¹ were applied respectively. (b) The calculated time efficiency from (a).

Side length	Number of pixels	Total galvo time	Averaged galvo time
<i>L</i> (µm)	Ν	$T_{g}(\mathbf{s})$	$t_{\rm g}\left({\rm s}\right)$
1	14400	14	0.0010
2	3600	9	0.0025
3	2160	10	0.0046
4	1600	12	0.0075
5	1320	14	0.0106
6	900	14	0.0156
7	700	14	0.0200
8	600	15	0.0250
9	440	14	0.0318
10	480	19	0.0396
20	90	13	0.1444
30	49	16	0.3265
40	30	16	0.5333
50	20	18	0.9000
60	12	15	1.2500
70	12	20	1.6667
80	8	18	2.2500
90	6	16	2.6667
100	6	21	3.5000
110	6	24	4.0000
120	3	14	4.6667
130	3	18	6.0000
140	3	19	6.3333

Table S1. Time consumption on printing BSC pixels with various side lengths usingconstant CVP (1.0, 50, 0.0, 3000). Only galvo times were counted.

	Art painting in	Art painting in		Zyla's work
	Figure 6c	Figu	re S19c	
Print area (mm ²)	1.3 × 1.3	8 × 8		2
Pixel size (µm ²)	25 × 25	140×140		11 × 4
Gap between pixels <i>I</i>	1	20		2
(µm)	-			
Time cost per pixel $t(s)$	1.841	8.927		1.685
Galvo time $t_g(s)$	0.208	4.356	6.533	0.0157
Line distance $a(\mu m)$	1.0	1.5	1.0	1.0
Scan speed v (µm s ⁻¹)	3000	3000	3000	1400
Number of pixels N	1445	1022	423	2.564×10^{4}
Total galvo time $\Sigma t_g(s)$	301.0	7215.0		402.6
Idle time t_i (s)	1.633	3.934		1.669
Stage time $t_{st}(s)$	0.446	2.746		-
$t_{\rm if} + t_{\rm se}$ (s)	1.187	1.187		-

Table S2. Time cost comparison of the art paintings and Zyla's work¹ (The gap between pixels was assumed as 2 μ m according to the SEM images).

Total idle time Σt_i (s)	2360.0	5685.0	42797.4
Total time cost $T(s)$	2661 (43 min 31 s)	12900 (3 h 35 min)	43200 (12 h)
Time efficiency $\boldsymbol{\xi}(\%)$	11.31	55.93	0.93
Estimated $T(h)$ for 1 cm ²	43.7	5.6	600
Estimated speed (cm ² /h)	0.0228	0.1786	0.0017

Movie S1. Time cost for the fabrication of a single pixel with L = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 μ m.

Movie S2. Time cost for the fabrication of a single pixel with $L = 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140 <math>\mu$ m.

References

 Zyla, G.; Kovalev, A.; Gurevich, E. L.; Esen, C.; Liu, Y.; Lu, Y.; Gorb, S.;
Ostendorf, A. Structural Colors with Angle-Insensitive Optical Properties Generated by Morpho-Inspired 2PP Structures. *Appl. Phys. A* 2020, *126* (9), 740.