## **Supporting Information**

## A Unique Fabrication Strategy of Hierarchical Morphologies: Combination of Multi-Step Self-Assembling and Morphology Transition

Wenjian Zhang, Chunyan Hong\* and Caiyuan Pan\*

CAS Key Laboratory of Soft Matter Chemistry, Department of Polymer Science and

Engineering, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, 230026, Anhui,

P.R. China.

Email: hongcy@ustc.edu.cn, pcy@ustc.edu.cn



Figure S1. GPC trace of P4VP-TC in DMF.



Figure S2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of P4VP-TC in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.





 $M_{\rm n} = 247100$ 

 $\frac{M_{\rm w}/M_{\rm n}=1.53}{M_{\rm n}=204800}$ 

 $\frac{M_{\rm w}/M_{\rm n}=1.45}{M_{\rm n}=157000}$ 

 $\frac{M_{\rm n}}{M_{\rm w}/M_{\rm n}} = 1.39$ 

18

(Continues on next page)



**Figure S3.** GPC traces of the P4VP<sub>39</sub>-PS<sub>m</sub> block copolymers obtained from RAFT dispersion polymerization with various molar ratios of St/P4VP-TC/AIBN at 80°C for different polymerization times.  $E_aI_b$ -X: X denotes polymerization time (h);  $I_{20000}$ ,  $I_{15000}$  and  $I_{10000}$  respectively refer to initial feed molar ratios of St/P4VP/AIBN = 20000/1/0.1, 15000/1/0.1 and 10000/1/0.1;  $E_a$  refers to weight (g) of the ethanol mixed with 5.2 g of St for  $I_{20000}$ , 3.9 g of St for  $I_{15000}$ , and 2.6 g of St for  $I_{10000}$ .



(Continues on next page)





E<sub>3.60</sub>I<sub>15000</sub>-24

117

 $E_{3.60}I_{15000}\text{--}36$ 



E<sub>3.60</sub>I<sub>15000</sub>-48





 $E_{1.50}I_{10000}\text{--}36$ 



E<sub>1.50</sub>I<sub>10000</sub>-48



(Continues on next page)



**Figure S4.** TEM images of the resultant aggregates obtained from RAFT dispersion polymerization in ethanol at 80°C for different polymerization times.  $E_aI_b$ -X, X denotes polymerization time (h);  $I_{20000}$ ,  $I_{15000}$  and  $I_{10000}$  refer to initial feed molar ratio of St/P4VP/AIBN = 20000/1/0.1, 15000/1/0.1 and 10000/1/0.1, respectively;  $E_a$  refers to weights (g) of the ethanol mixed with 5.2 g of St for  $I_{20000}$ , 3.9 g of St for  $I_{15000}$ , and 2.6 g of St for  $I_{10000}$ .

Sample code <sup>a</sup>	N <sub>PS</sub> <sup>b</sup>	R <sup>b</sup>	$M_{n}^{c}(g/mol)$	$M_{\rm w}/M_{\rm n}^{\rm c}$	<b>Morphology</b> <sup>d</sup>
E <sub>3.00</sub> I <sub>20000</sub> -24	2434	62.4	202700	1.42	lcv
$E_{3.00}I_{20000}$ -36	3226	82.7	276400	1.49	lcv
$E_{3.00}I_{20000}$ -48	3637	93.3	307000	1.62	SHM
$E_{3.60}I_{20000}$ -12	970	24.9	99300	1.36	V
$E_{3.60}I_{20000}$ -24	2220	56.9	189000	1.40	v + lcv
$E_{3.60}I_{20000}$ -30	2790	71.5	231100	1.46	lcv
E <sub>3.60</sub> I <sub>20000</sub> -36	3021	77.5	261900	1.52	SHM
$E_{3.60}I_{20000}$ -48	3420	87.7	289100	1.59	SHM
$E_{4.20}I_{20000}$ -24	1864	47.8	157000	1.39	lcv
$E_{4.20}I_{20000}$ -36	2488	63.8	204800	1.45	SHM
$E_{4.20}I_{20000}$ -48	2907	74.5	247100	1.53	SHM
$E_{4.80}I_{20000}$ -24	1539	39.5	135200	1.37	V
$E_{4.80}I_{20000}$ -36	2285	58.6	198100	1.42	SHM
$E_{4.80}I_{20000}$ -48	2850	73.1	234300	1.48	SHM
$E_{2.25}I_{15000}$ -24	1904	48.8	165400	1.41	V
$E_{2.25}I_{15000}$ -36	2411	61.8	231600	1.47	lcv
$E_{2.25}I_{15000}$ -48	2742	70.3	282400	1.60	SHM
$E_{2.70}I_{15000}$ -24	1653	42.4	148700	1.36	V
$E_{2.70}I_{15000}$ -36	2143	54.9	207400	1.43	SHM
$E_{2.70}I_{15000}$ -48	2536	65.0	234900	1.51	SHM
$E_{3.15}I_{15000}$ -24	1476	37.8	129700	1.30	V
E <sub>3.15</sub> I <sub>15000</sub> -36	1910	49.0	163600	1.35	V
$E_{3.15}I_{15000}$ -48	2086	53.5	187100	1.41	lcv
$E_{3.60}I_{15000}$ -24	1352	34.7	123400	1.25	v
$E_{3.60}I_{15000}$ -36	1677	43.0	144500	1.29	V
$E_{3.60}I_{15000}$ -48	1813	46.5	156300	1.34	v + lcv
$E_{1.50}I_{10000}$ -24	1524	39.1	123300	1.31	V
$E_{1.50}I_{10000}$ -36	2207	56.6	188700	1.41	lev
$E_{1.50}I_{10000}$ -48	2394	61.4	214700	1.50	lev
$E_{1.80}I_{10000}$ -24	1368	35.1	112000	1.30	V
$E_{1.80}I_{10000}$ -36	1881	48.2	168700	1.37	v + lcv
$E_{1.80}I_{10000}$ -48	2105	54.0	204100	1.46	SHM
$E_{2.10}I_{10000}$ -24	1251	32.1	101500	1.25	V
$E_{2.10}I_{10000}$ -36	1660	42.6	146200	1.30	V
$E_{2.10}I_{10000}$ -48	1858	47.6	167400	1.32	v + lcv
$E_{2.40}I_{10000}$ -24	1047	26.8	83200	1.23	v + nr
$E_{2.40}I_{10000}$ -36	1334	34.2	122700	1.28	V
$E_{2.40}I_{10000}$ -48	1452	37.2	138300	1.31	V

**Table S1.** Characterizations of  $P4VP_{39}$ -PS<sub>x</sub> Diblock Copolymers and Morphologies Prepared by RAFT Dispersion Polymerization in ethanol at 80°C

<sup>a</sup>Note:  $E_aI_b$ -X, where E stands for ethanol, "a" denotes initial weight (g) of ethanol mixed with 5.2 g of St for  $I_{20000}$ , 3.9 g of St for  $I_{15000}$ , and 2.6 g of St for  $I_{10000}$ ;  $I_b$  is the initial molar ratio of the St/P4VP-TC, X is polymerization time (h). <sup>b</sup> N<sub>PS</sub> is DP of PS and *R* is chain length ratio of the PS block to P4VP block, which were calculated according to <sup>1</sup>H NMR data. <sup>c</sup>Number-average molecular weights ( $M_n$ ) and  $M_w/M_n$  of P4VP-PS<sub>m</sub> obtained by GPC. <sup>d</sup>The copolymer morphology is identified by TEM, where nr = nanorods, v = vesicles, lcv = large compound vesicles, SHM = sea cucumber-like hierarchical microstructures.