

## Supporting Information

# Tuning Photosensitization Efficiency of Atomically Precise Metal Nanoclusters by Super-Efficient and Exquisite Interface Modulation

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## Experimental section

### S1. Materials

Titanium sheets (50 mm × 20 mm × 0.1 mm, 99.9%), deionized water (DI H<sub>2</sub>O, Millipore, 18.2 MΩ cm resistivity), graphite sheets (50 mm × 20 mm × 0.1 mm, 99.6%), ethylene glycol (CH<sub>2</sub>OH)<sub>2</sub>, ammonium fluoride (NH<sub>4</sub>F), hydrogen fluoride (HF), nitric acid (HNO<sub>3</sub>), sodium tetrachloropalladate (Na<sub>2</sub>PdCl<sub>4</sub>), tetrabutylammonium bromide (TOAB), toluene, sodium borohydride (NaBH<sub>4</sub>), 4-dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP, C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N<sub>2</sub>), sulfuric acid (H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), sodium hydroxide (NaOH), L-glutathione (reduced, 98%, Sigma-Aldrich), gold (III) chloride trihydrate (99.9%, Sigma-Aldrich), Methanol (CH<sub>3</sub>OH), Ethanol (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O), Ethylene glycol (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O<sub>2</sub>), Glycerol (C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O<sub>3</sub>), Lactic acid (C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O<sub>3</sub>), Sodium sulfate (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>). All the materials are analytical grade and used as received without further purification.

### S2. Fabrication of TNTAs

Preparation of TNTAs was referred to our previously published work.<sup>S[1]</sup> Ti foil was thoroughly cleaned by sonication in acetone, ethanol and DI H<sub>2</sub>O. Then, Ti sheets were immersed in a mixed solution of HF–HNO<sub>3</sub>–H<sub>2</sub>O in a volume ratio of 1 : 4 : 5 for 30 s, washed by DI H<sub>2</sub>O and dried with a N<sub>2</sub> stream. Anodization was carried out under ambient conditions at 50 V for 2 h with ca. 3 cm separation distance between the working (Ti foil) and counter electrode (graphite). The electrolyte consists of 0.3 wt % of NH<sub>4</sub>F (0.6 g) in ethylene glycol (196 mL) and DI H<sub>2</sub>O (4 mL). After anodization, TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotube arrays were washed by DI H<sub>2</sub>O and dried with a N<sub>2</sub> stream. The surface layer was removed from Ti foil by sonication in ethanol for 5 min. A second anodization was performed at 50 V for 30 min to produce the TNTAs. Similarly, the resulting TNTAs were also washed by DI H<sub>2</sub>O, dried with a N<sub>2</sub> stream and finally calcined at 450 °C for 3 h in air with a heating rate of 5 °C min<sup>-1</sup>.

### S3. Preparation of Au<sub>x</sub>@GSH NCs

Preparation of Au<sub>x</sub>@GSH NCs was referred to a previously published work.<sup>S[2]</sup> Preparation of Au<sub>x</sub>@GSH clusters was referred to a previously published work. Briefly, gold (III) chloride trihydrate (40 mg) and L-glutathione (GSH, 46 mg) were thoroughly mixed in 50 mL of DI H<sub>2</sub>O at ambient conditions. The mixture was continuously stirred until the appearance of a colorless solution and then was heated at 70 °C for 24 h. Subsequently, acetonitrile was added to the cluster solution to purify the clusters followed by washing several times with mixed solution of DI H<sub>2</sub>O and acetonitrile (1:3 in volume). Finally, the clusters were re-dissolved in DI H<sub>2</sub>O and stored at ambient conditions (0.8 mg/mL, pH = 3.98).

### S4. Preparation of Pd@DMAP NYs

Preparation of Pd@DMAP NYs was referred to a previously published work.<sup>S[3]</sup> Preparation of Pd@DMAP nanoparticles was referred to a previously published method. Prior to the experiment, all glassware were cleaned thoroughly with aqua (3:1 in volume for HCl and HNO<sub>3</sub>) for 12 h and thoroughly washed with DI H<sub>2</sub>O. A 30 mM aqueous Na<sub>2</sub>PdCl<sub>4</sub> solution (30 mL) was added to a 25 mM TOAB solution in toluene (80 mL). The transfer of the gold salt to the toluene phase can be seen

within a few seconds. A freshly prepared 0.4 M NaBH<sub>4</sub> (25 mL) aqueous solution was added to the above mixture under vigorous stirring, which causes an immediate color change from colorless to brown for Pd. After 30 min the two phases were separated and the toluene phase was subsequently washed with 0.1 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, 0.1 M NaOH, and DI H<sub>2</sub>O for three times, and then dried with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Afterwards, an aqueous 0.1 M 4-dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP) solution (80 mL) was added to aliquots (80 mL) of the as-prepared nanoparticle mixtures. Direct phase transfer across the organic/aqueous interface was completed within 2 h with no stirring or agitation required. Finally, Pd-dissolved water phase was separated by a separatory funnel and Pd@DMAP aqueous solution (1.2 mg/mL) was thus obtained.

## S5. Preparation of multilayered ternary and binary heterostructures

### (a) Self-assembly of TNTAs@(Au<sub>x</sub>/Pd) ternary heterostructures

TNTAs substrate was dipped into negatively charged Au<sub>x</sub>@GSH NCs aqueous solution (0.8 mg/mL, 50 mL) for 10 s, washed with DI H<sub>2</sub>O and dried with a gentle N<sub>2</sub> stream. Subsequently, Au<sub>x</sub>-modified TNTAs was dipped into positively charged Pd@DMAP aqueous solution (0.06 mg/mL, 50 mL) for 10 s, after which the sample was subjected to the same washing and drying treatments, resulting in the TNTAs@(Au<sub>x</sub>/Pd) ternary heterostructures. Concentration of Pd@DMAP NYs was controlled to be 0.03, 0.06, 0.12, 0.24 mg/mL via dilution by adding 1.25, 2.5, 5 and 10 mL of DI H<sub>2</sub>O into pristine Pd@DMAP NYs aqueous solution, by which the corresponding samples were referred to as TNTAs@8A3P, TNTAs@8A6P, TNTAs@8A12P, and TNTAs@8A24P, respectively.

### (b) Self-assembly of TNTAs@(Pd/Au<sub>x</sub>) ternary heterostructures

Synthesis procedure of TNTAs@(Pd/Au<sub>x</sub>) is analogous to TNTAs@(Au<sub>x</sub>/Pd) apart from reversing the dipping sequence of TNTAs substrate in Au<sub>x</sub>@GSH NCs and Pd@DMAP NYs (0.06 mg/mL, 50 mL) aqueous solutions. Concentration of Au<sub>x</sub>@GSH NCs was controlled to be 0.1, 0.2, 0.4, 0.8 mg/mL by adding 6.25, 12.5, 25 and 50 mL of DI H<sub>2</sub>O into pristine Au<sub>x</sub>@GSH NCs aqueous solutions, by which the corresponding samples were referred to as TNTAs@6P1A, TNTAs@6P2A, TNTAs@6P4A and TNTAs@6P8A, respectively. The self-designed automatic machine based self-assembly apparatus was provided in the appendix section in SI.

### (c) Self-assembly of TNTAs@Pd and TNTAs@Au<sub>x</sub> binary heterostructures

TNTAs substrate was directly dipped into Pd@DMAP NYs aqueous solution (0.06 mg/mL, 50 mL) for 10 s, washed with DI H<sub>2</sub>O and dried with a gentle N<sub>2</sub> stream, which gives rise to TNTAs@6Pd binary heterostructure. Analogously, TNTAs substrate was directly dipped into Au<sub>x</sub>@GSH NCs aqueous solution (0.8 mg/mL, 50 mL) for 10 s and then subjected to the same washing and drying treatments, leading to the TNTAs@8Au<sub>x</sub> binary heterostructure.

## S6. Characterization

Zeta potentials were probed by dynamic light scattering analysis (ZetasizerNano ZS-90). Crystal structure was determined by X-ray diffraction (XRD, Miniflex600, Rigaku Corporation, Japan) using Cu K $\alpha$  as the radiation source under 40 kV and 15 mA. Field-emission scanning electron microscopy (FESEM, Supra55, Carl Zeiss, Germany) was used to probe the morphologies of the samples. Transmission electron microscopy (TEM), high-resolution (HR) TEM and energy dispersive X-ray

spectrum (EDX) were collected on a Tecnai G2 F20 transmission electron microscope with an accelerating voltage of 200 kV. UV-vis diffuse reflectance spectra (DRS, Cary50, Varian, America) were obtained using BaSO<sub>4</sub> as the reflectance background ranging from 200 to 800 nm. Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectra were recorded on a TJ270-30A infrared spectrophotometer (Tianjin, China). X-ray photoelectron spectrometer (XPS) spectra were recorded on a photoelectron spectrometer (Escalab 250, Thermo Scientific, America), where binding energies (B.E.) of the elements were calibrated by 284.60 eV. Photoluminescence (PL) spectra were measured on a Varian Cary Eclipse spectrometer. Raman measurements were carried out on a Raman spectroscopy (Dxr-2xi, Thermo Scientific, America) with scan taken on an extended range from 0 to 3000 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Energy levels of Au<sub>x</sub>@GSH NCs were determined by Cyclic voltammetry (CV) measurements which were performed using a three-electrode system with glass carbon disk, platinum gauze, and Ag/AgCl (0.54 V vs. RHE) as the working, counter, and reference electrodes, respectively. The electrolyte was composed of 0.1 M tetraethylammonium perchlorate (TEAP) in acetonitrile (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>3</sub>N) and purged with N<sub>2</sub> in a sealed vial for 10 min prior to use. CV curves were collected by sweeping at 0.1 V s<sup>-1</sup> in a mixed C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>3</sub>N/TEAP (0.1 M) aqueous solution with adding 800 or 1000 μL of Au<sub>x</sub>@GSH NCs.

### S7. Photocatalytic hydrogen evolution measurements

Apparent quantum efficiency (Φ) and solar-to-hydrogen (S.T.H) of the reaction were determined according to our previously published work.<sup>S[4-5]</sup>

Apparent quantum efficiency (Φ) of the reaction was determined by the following equation:

$$\Phi(\%) = (2 \times \frac{R}{I}) \times 100$$

where *R* and *I* represent the number of evolved H<sub>2</sub> molecules and incident photons assuming all the incident photons are absorbed by the catalyst.

Solar-to-hydrogen (S.T.H) efficiency is calculated according to the following formula:

$$S.T.H = \frac{n_{H_2} (mmol) \times \Delta G (KJ/mol)}{S(cm^2) \times P(mW/cm^2) \times t(s)} \times 100\%$$

where, *n*<sub>H<sub>2</sub></sub> is the amount of H<sub>2</sub> molecules, Δ*G* is the Gibbs free energy per mol of H<sub>2</sub> (at 25 °C, Δ*G* = 237 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>), *S* is the irradiation area, *P* is the light intensity, and *t* is the photoreaction time.

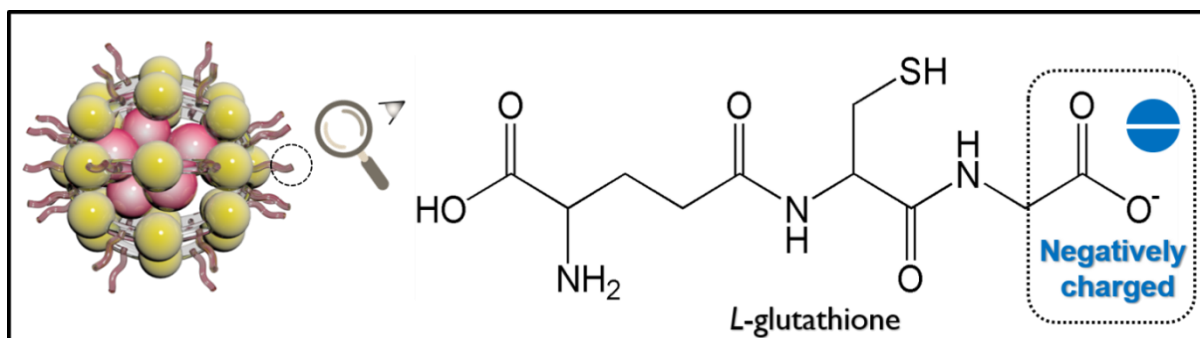
A.Q.Y and S.T.H efficiency were determined under the same experimental conditions except that a band pass interference filter centered at 360 ± 10 nm was equipped to provide photons with wavelengths between 355 and 365 nm. Filters of other bands (400, 420, 450, 500, 550, and 600 nm) were also used under the same conditions. In a typical calculation of A.Q.Y and S.T.H, the number of incident photons was measured using a radiant power energy meter (Perfect light, PLS-MW2000) with irradiation spot diameter of 2 cm. Cyclic photocatalytic H<sub>2</sub> evolution measurements were carried out as follows: photocatalytic reaction system was thoroughly degassed after the first run reaction without separating the photocatalysts or supplementing lactic acid and the thoroughly degassed reaction system was irradiated again under the same conditions.

### S8. Photoelectrochemical (PEC) measurements

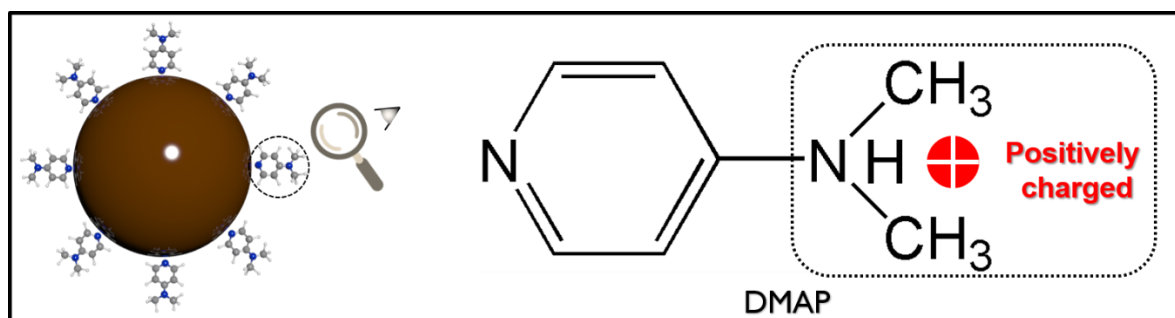
PEC measurements were carried out on an electrochemical workstation (CHI660E, CHI Shanghai, Inc.) with conventional three-electrode system and 0.5 M Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> aqueous solution (pH=6.69) was utilized as the electrolyte. The three-electrode system is composed of Pt foil (1 cm × 1 cm) which was used as the counter electrode and Ag/AgCl electrode as the reference electrode, and the working electrodes were prepared on fluorine-doped tin oxide (FTO) glass that was cleaned by sonication in DI H<sub>2</sub>O and ethanol for 30 min and dried at 333 K in an oven. The boundary of FTO glass was protected using Scotch tape. Specifically, 10 mg of the sample was dispersed in 0.5 mL of ethanol by sonication to get slurry which was spread onto the pretreated FTO glass. After air drying, the Scotch tape was unstuck and the uncoated part of the electrode was isolated with nail polish.<sup>S[6]</sup> The exposed area of the working electrode was 1 cm<sup>2</sup>. Finally, the working electrode was vertically dipped into the electrolyte and irradiated with visible light ( $\lambda > 420$  nm) (PLS-SXE300D, Beijing Perfect Light Co. Ltd., China). Potentials of the electrode were calibrated against the reversible hydrogen electrode (RHE) based on the following formula:

$$E_{\text{RHE}} = E_{\text{Ag/AgCl}} + 0.059\text{pH} + E^{\circ}_{\text{Ag/AgCl}} \quad (E^{\circ}_{\text{Ag/AgCl}} = 0.1976 \text{ V at } 25 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C})$$

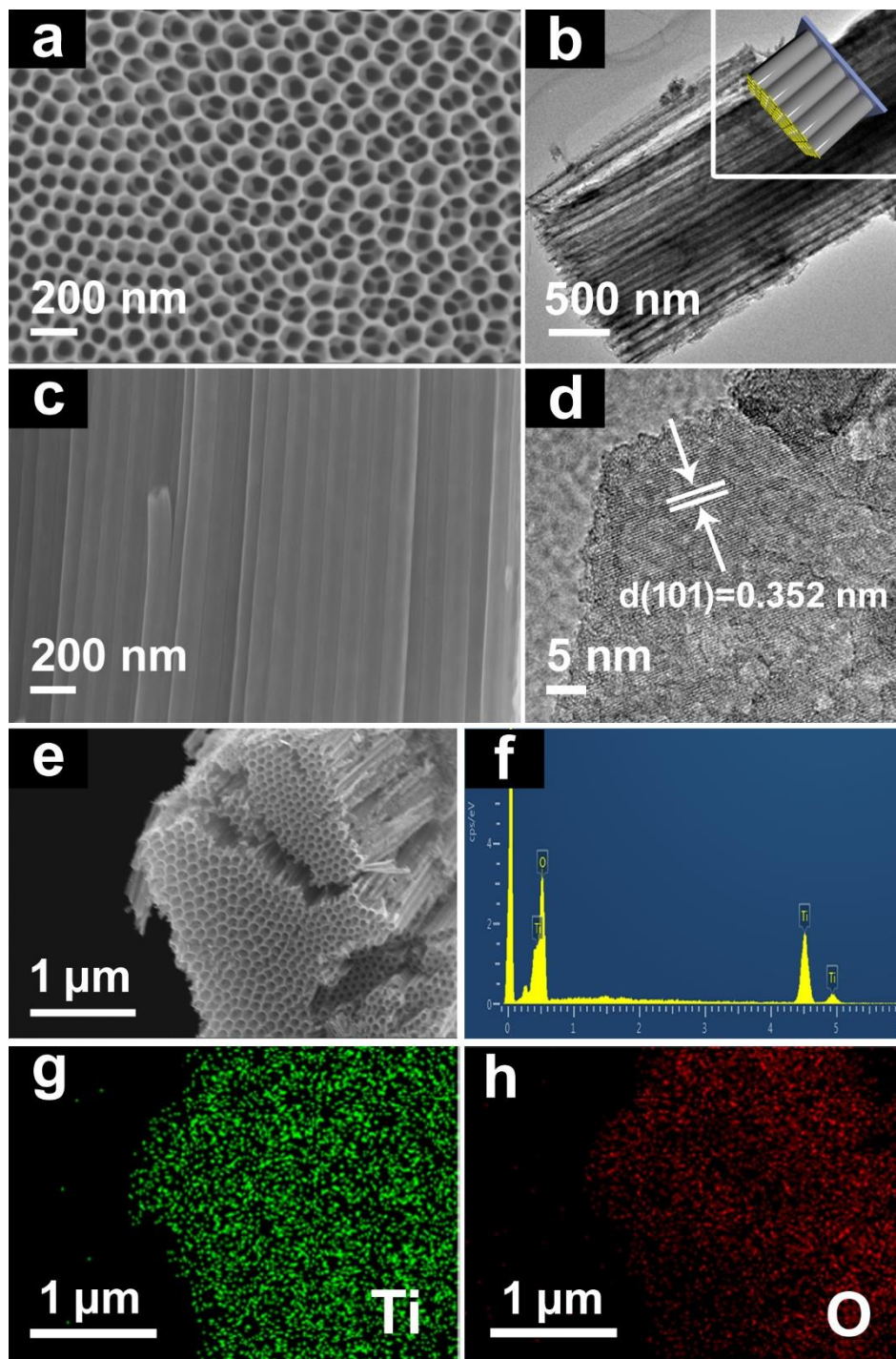
Transient photocurrent response (i.e., I-t) was collected under chopped light irradiation (light on/off cycle: 30 s) at a fixed bias of 1.23 V vs. RHE. Electrochemical impedance spectra (EIS) were measured on an electrochemical workstation (IM6, Zahner Germany) with an amplitude of 10 mV in the frequency ranging from 10<sup>5</sup> to 0.1 Hz.



**Note:** GSH ligands capped on the  $\text{Au}_x\text{@GSH NCs}$  surface provide various polar functional groups including carboxyl ( $\text{-COOH}$ ), amino ( $\text{-NH}_2$ ), and amide ( $\text{-CONH-}$ ) groups, among which deprotonated  $\text{-COO}^-$  specie endows  $\text{Au}_x\text{@GSH NCs}$  with a negatively charged surface that is beneficial for interaction with the positively charged TNTAs for electrostatic self-assembly buildup.  $\text{Pd@DMAP NYs}$  are featured by a positively charged surface, which enables electrostatic interaction with the negatively charged  $\text{Au}_x\text{@GSH NCs}$ . Alternatively, N-containing functional group in the DMAP ligand provides active sites to trigger the hydrogen bond interaction with the hydroxyl groups on the TNTAs surface. Apparently, surface ligands (DMAP & GSH) of Pd NYs and  $\text{Au}_x$  NCs play important roles in constructing  $\text{TNTAs@Pd}$ ,  $\text{TNTAs@Au}_x$ , and  $\text{TNTAs@}(\text{Au}_x/\text{Pd})$  heterostructures.<sup>S[7]</sup>

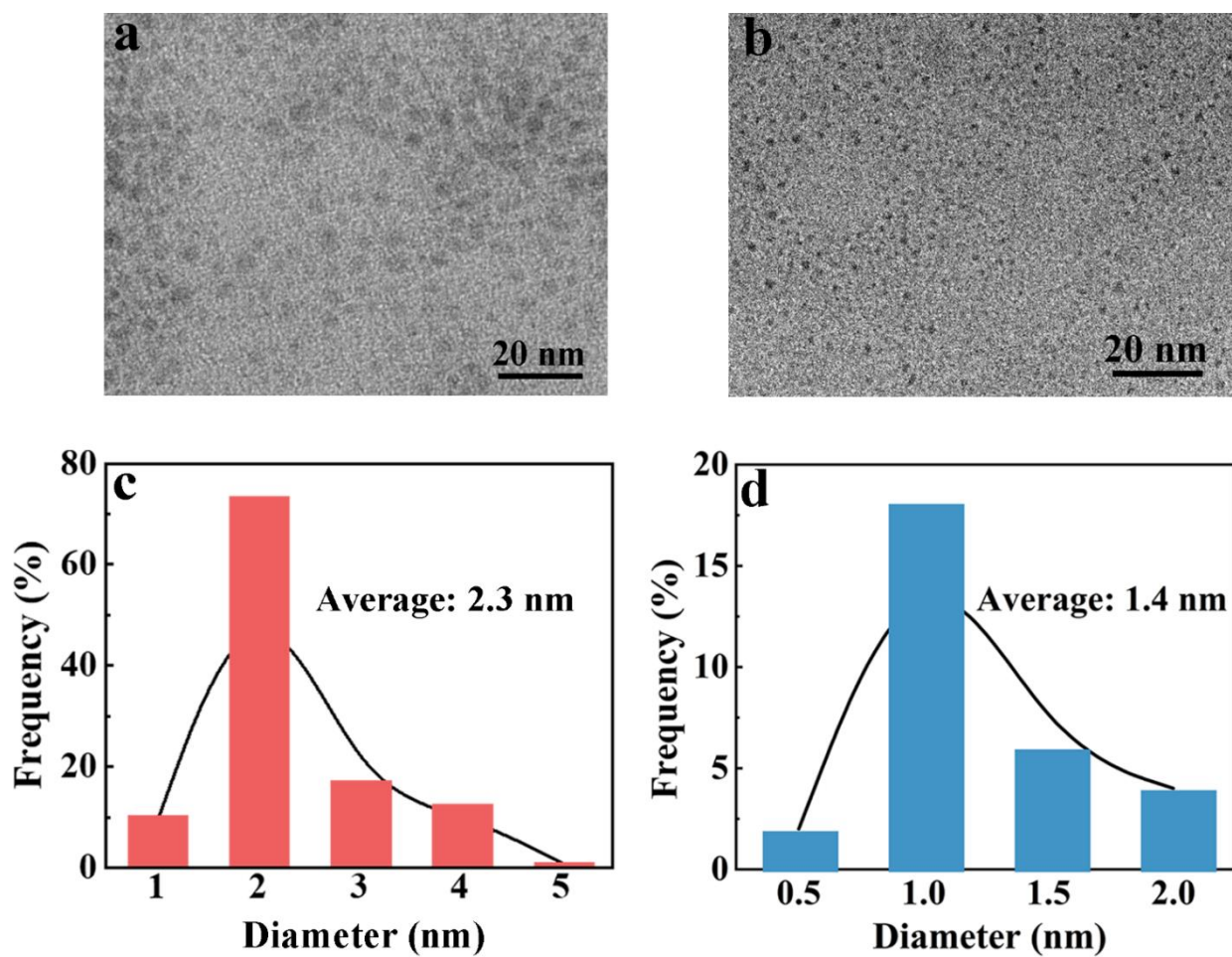


**Note:**  $\text{Pd@DMAP NYs}$  are characteristic of a positively charged surface over a wide pH (2-12) profile, which is reflected by the zeta potential results (**Fig. 1c**). DMAP ligands capped on Pd NYs form a labile donor-acceptor complex with the surface Pd atoms via the endocyclic nitrogen atoms, where surface charge arises from partial protonation of the exocyclic nitrogen atoms, giving rise to the positively charged surface.<sup>S[8]</sup> Atomically precise  $\text{Au}_x$  NCs are capped by a large amount of deprotonated carboxyl functional groups ( $\text{-COO}^-$ ) from the GSH ligands, which afford the negatively charged surface, as evidenced by the zeta potential results (**Fig. 1c**). The  $\text{Au}_x\text{@GSH NC}$  is composed of a few gold-atom cores capped with thiolated shell (i.e., 1:1 ratio of Au : thiolate, having > 29 gold atoms).<sup>S[9]</sup>

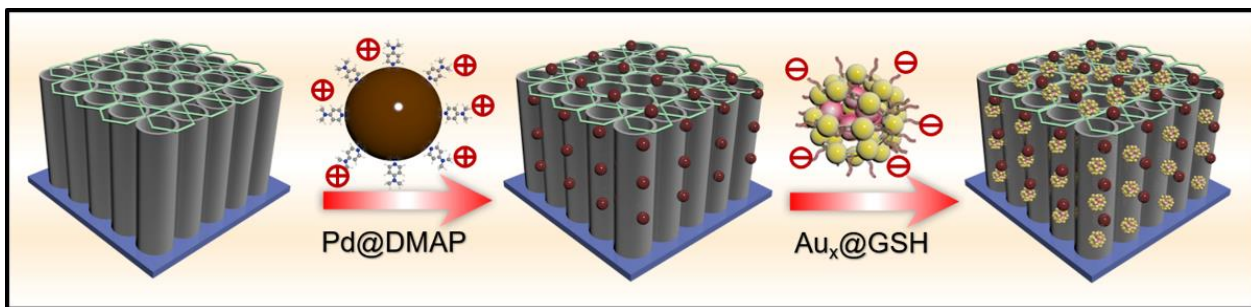


**Fig. S1.** (a) Top-view (c) cross-sectional FESEM images of TNTAs, (b) TEM, and (d) HRTEM images of TNTAs. (e) Low-magnified FESEM image of TNTAs with (f) EDS and (g & h) elemental mapping results.



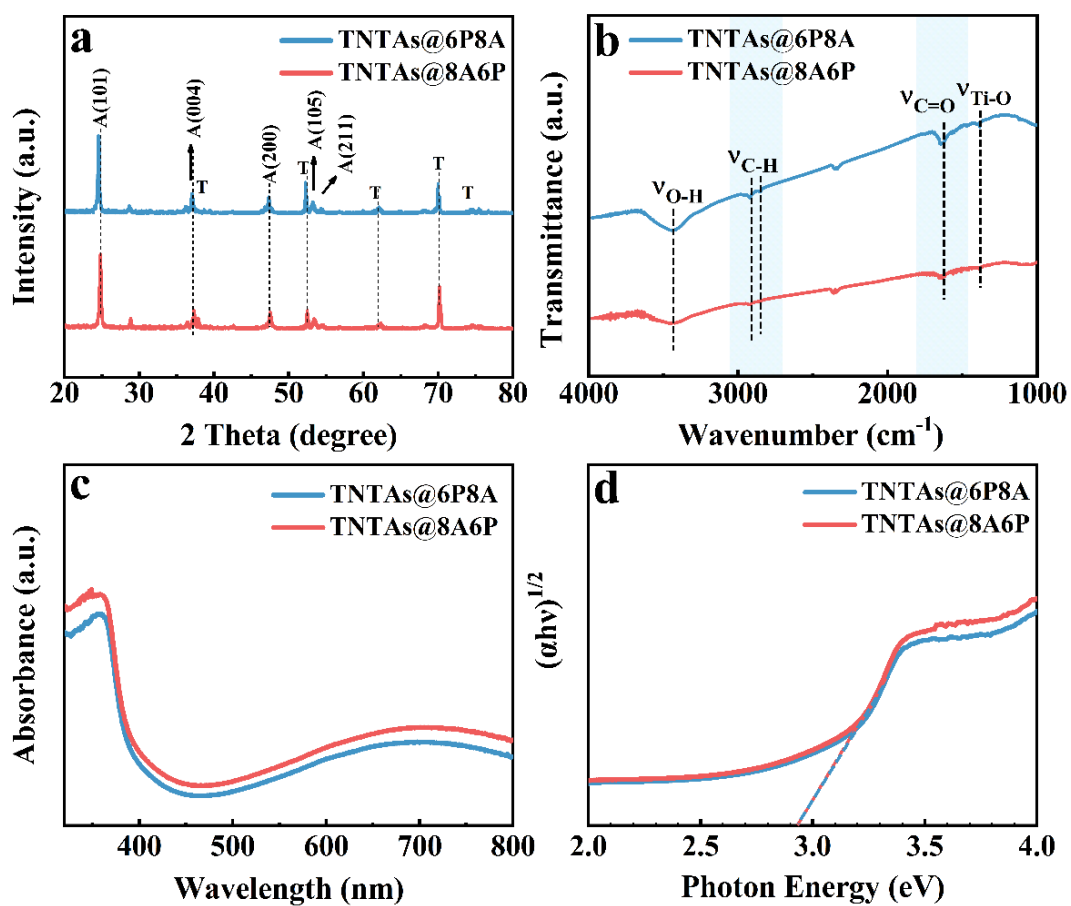


**Fig. S2.** TEM image and size distribution histograms of (a & c) Pd@DMAP NYs and (b & d) Au<sub>x</sub>@GSH NCs.

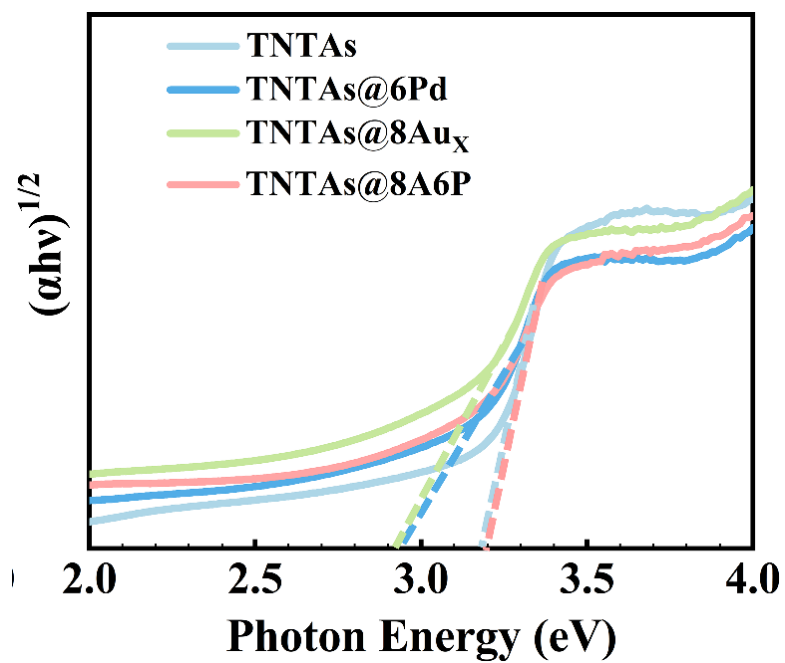


**Scheme S1.** Schematic illustration for self-assembly of TNTAs@(Pd/Au<sub>x</sub>) ternary heterostructure.

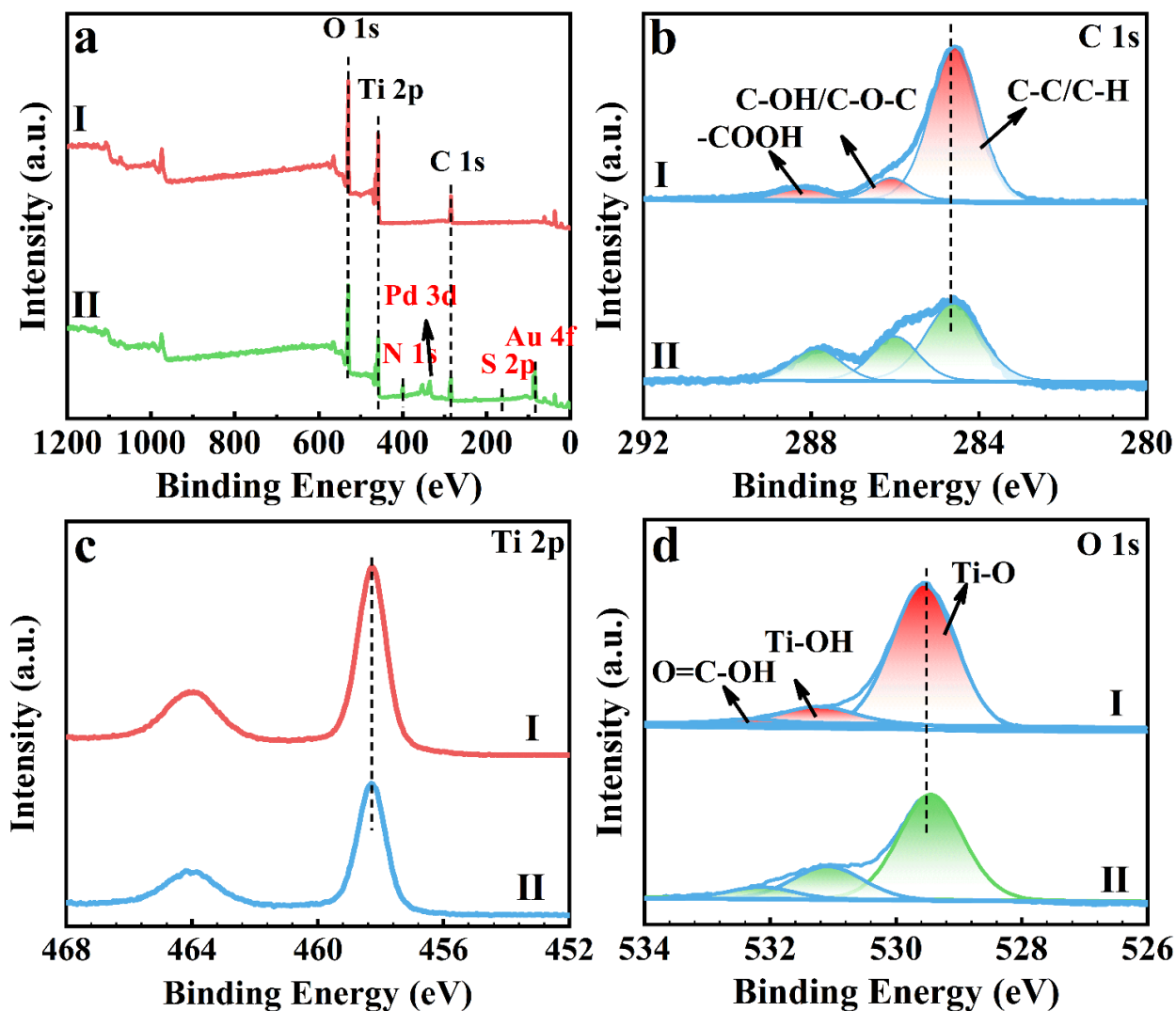
**Note:** TNTA substrate is fabricated by a two-step electrochemical anodization method, and it serves as the substrate for fabricating TNTAs@(Pd/Au<sub>x</sub>). Pd@DMAP NPs are then self-assembled on the TNTAs due to hydrogen bond interaction between DMAP ligands capped on the Pd NP surface and hydroxyl (-OH) groups on the NP-TNTA surface. Finally, negatively charged Au<sub>x</sub>@GSH NPs are electrostatically self-assembled with the positively charged TNTAs@Pd, resulting in the TNTAs@(Pd/Au<sub>x</sub>) ternary heterostructure.



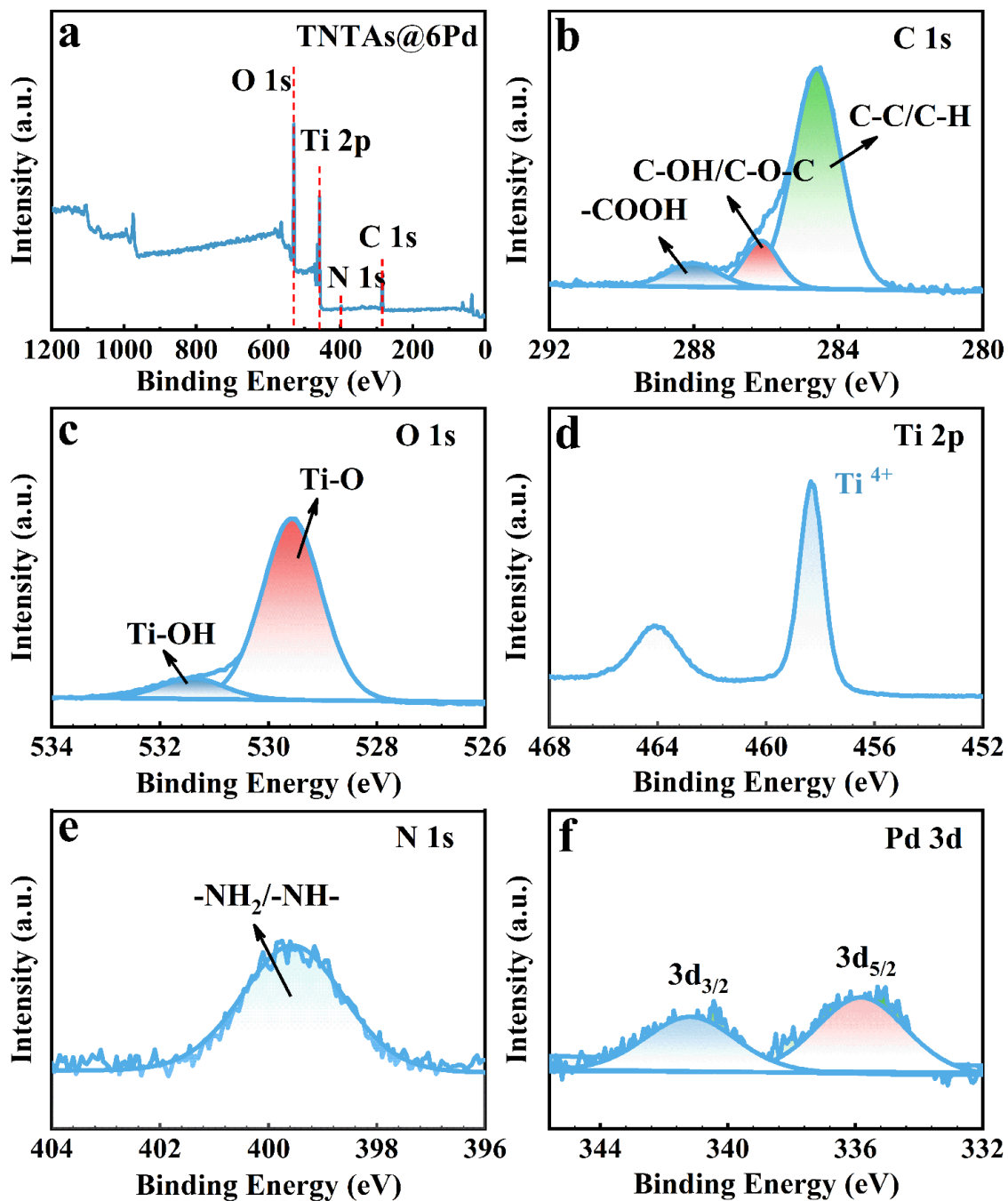
**Fig. S3.** (a) XRD patterns, (b) FTIR spectra, (c) DRS results, and (d) transformed plots based on the Kubelka-Munk function vs. the energy of light for TNTAs@6P8A and TNTAs@8A6P.



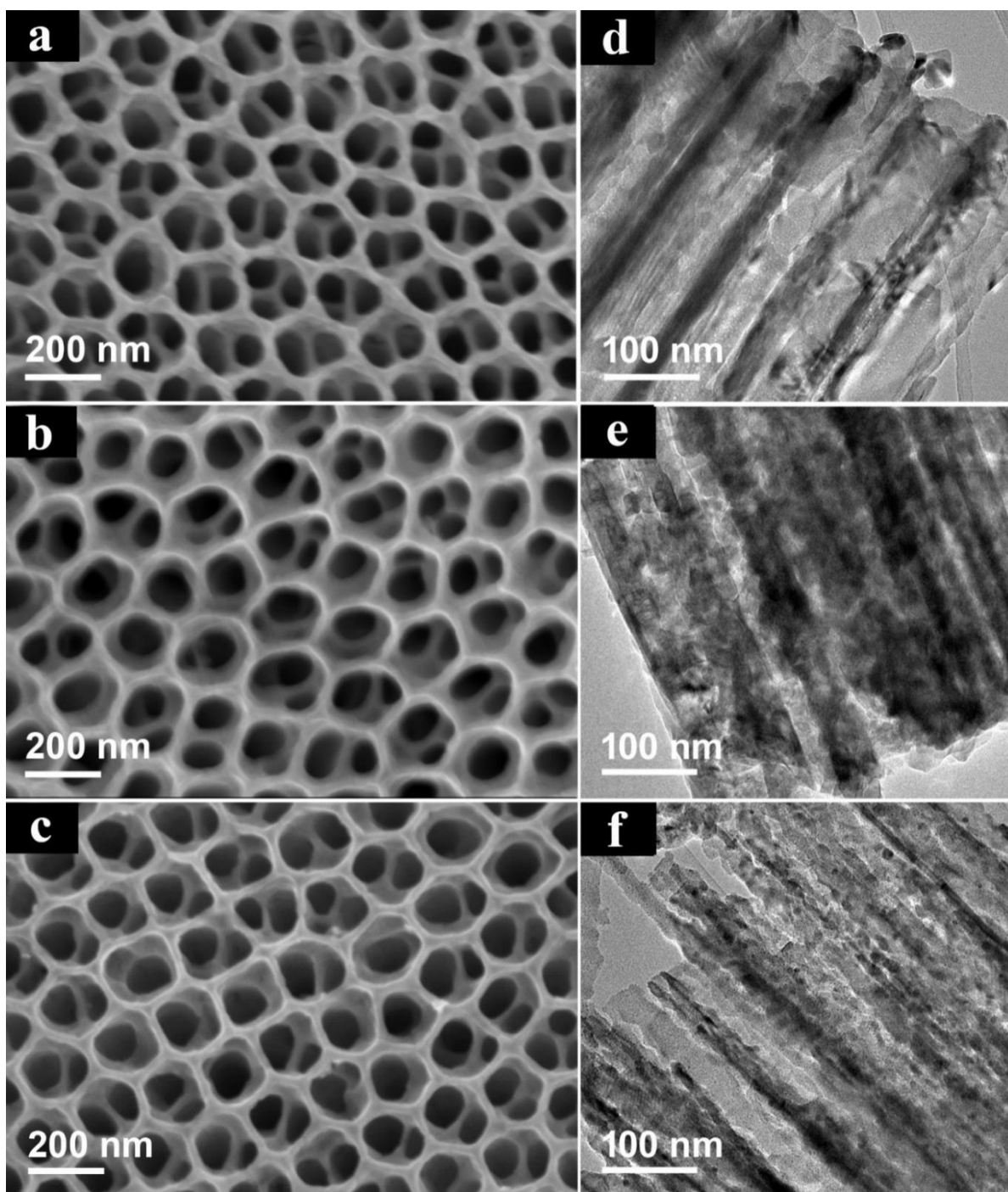
**Fig. S4.** Transformed plots based on the Kubelka-Munk function vs. the energy of light for TNTAs, TNTAs@6Pd, TNTAs@8Au<sub>x</sub>, and TNTAs@8A6P.



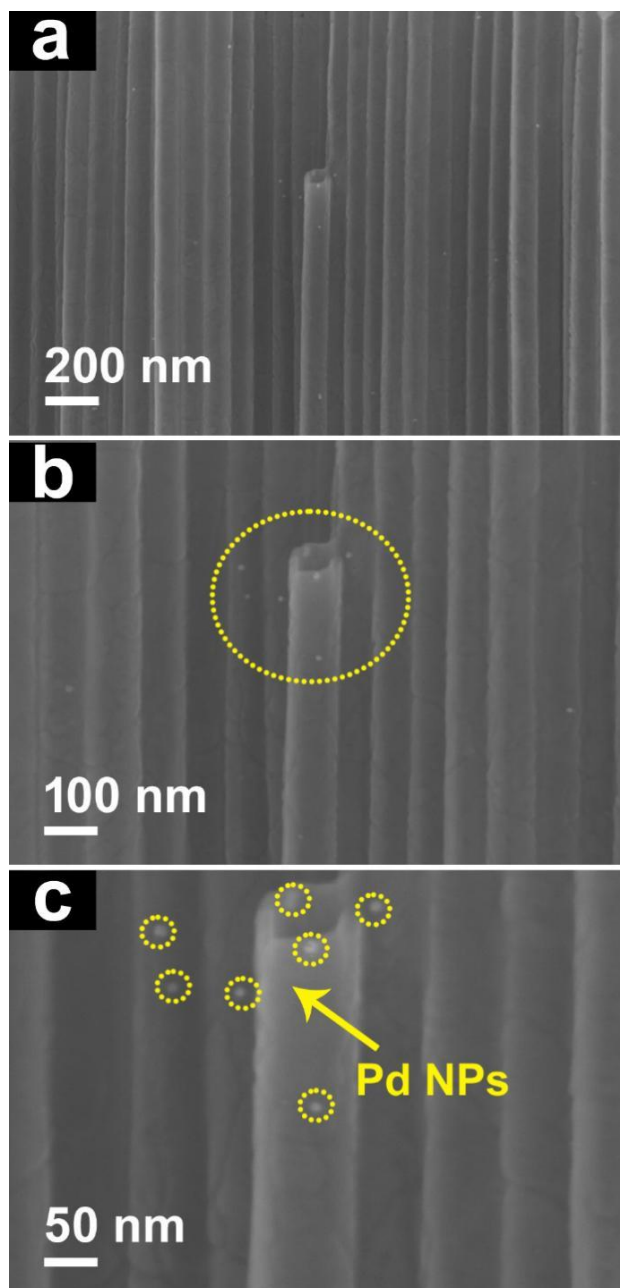
**Fig. S5.** (a) Survey spectra of TNTAs and TNTAs@8A6P; high-resolution (b) C 1s, (c) Ti 2p and (d) O 1s spectra of (I) TNTAs and (II) TNTAs@8A6P.



**Fig. S6.** (a) Survey and high-resolution (b) C 1s, (c) O 1s, (d) Ti 2p (e) N 1s, and (f) Pd 3d spectra of TNTAs@6Pd.

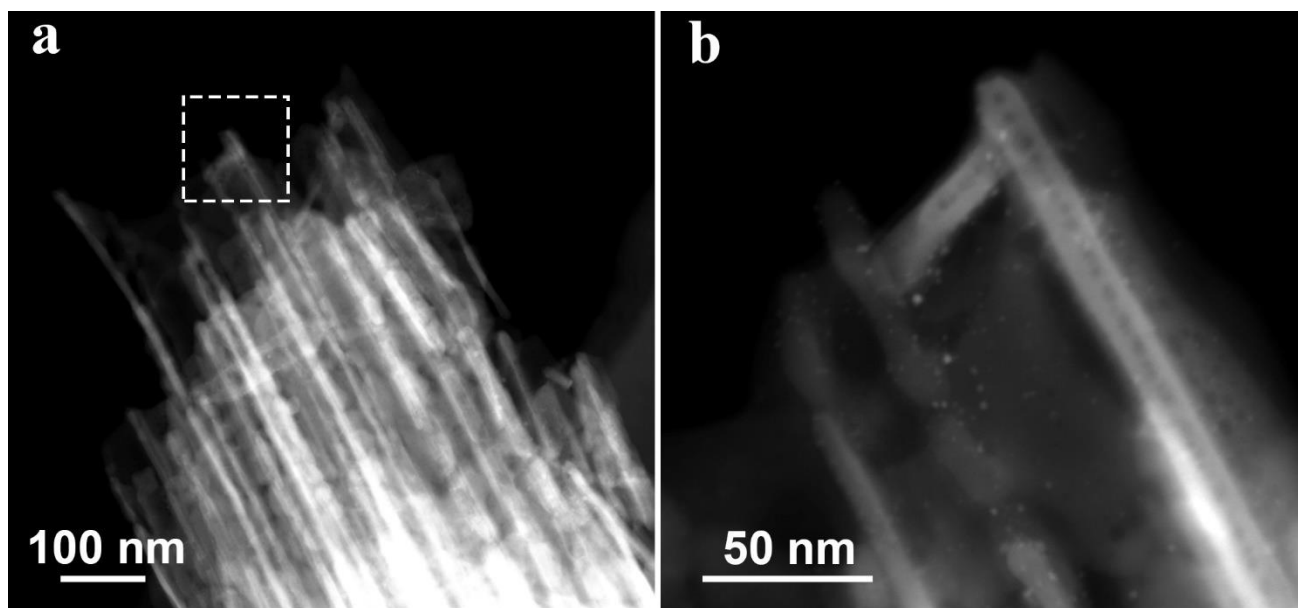


**Fig. S7.** Top-view FESEM and TEM images of (a & d) TNTAs@6Pd, (b & e) TNTAs@8Au<sub>x</sub> and (c & f) TNTAs@8A6P.

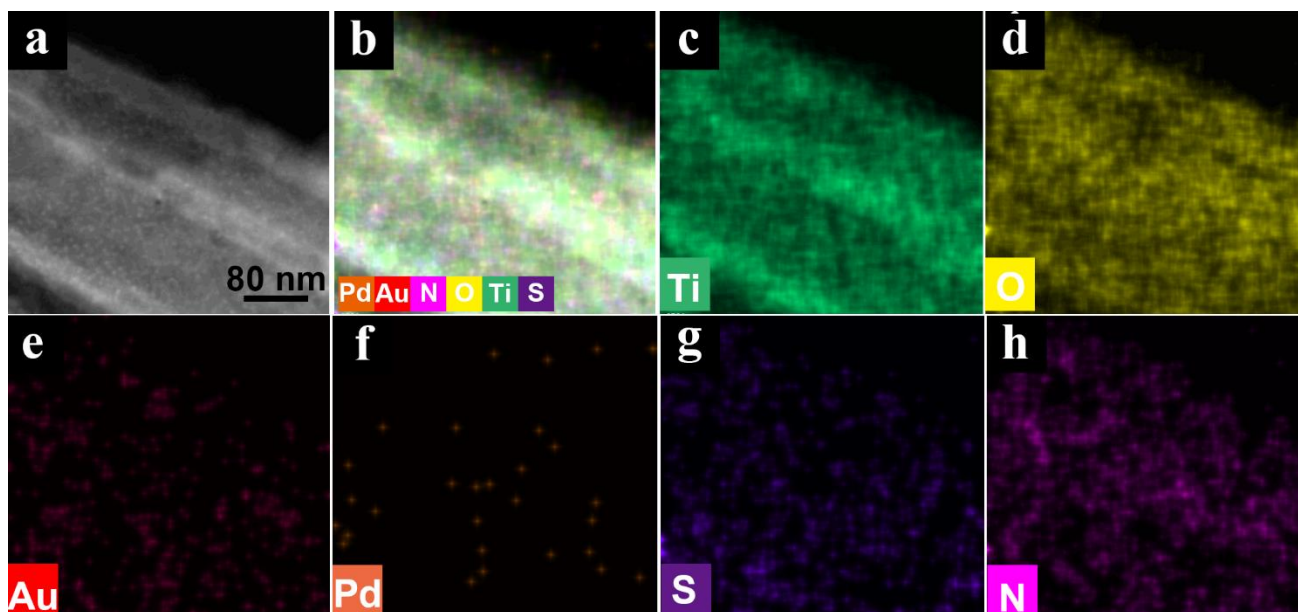


**Fig. S8.** (a-c) Cross-sectional FESEM images of TNTAs@6Pd.



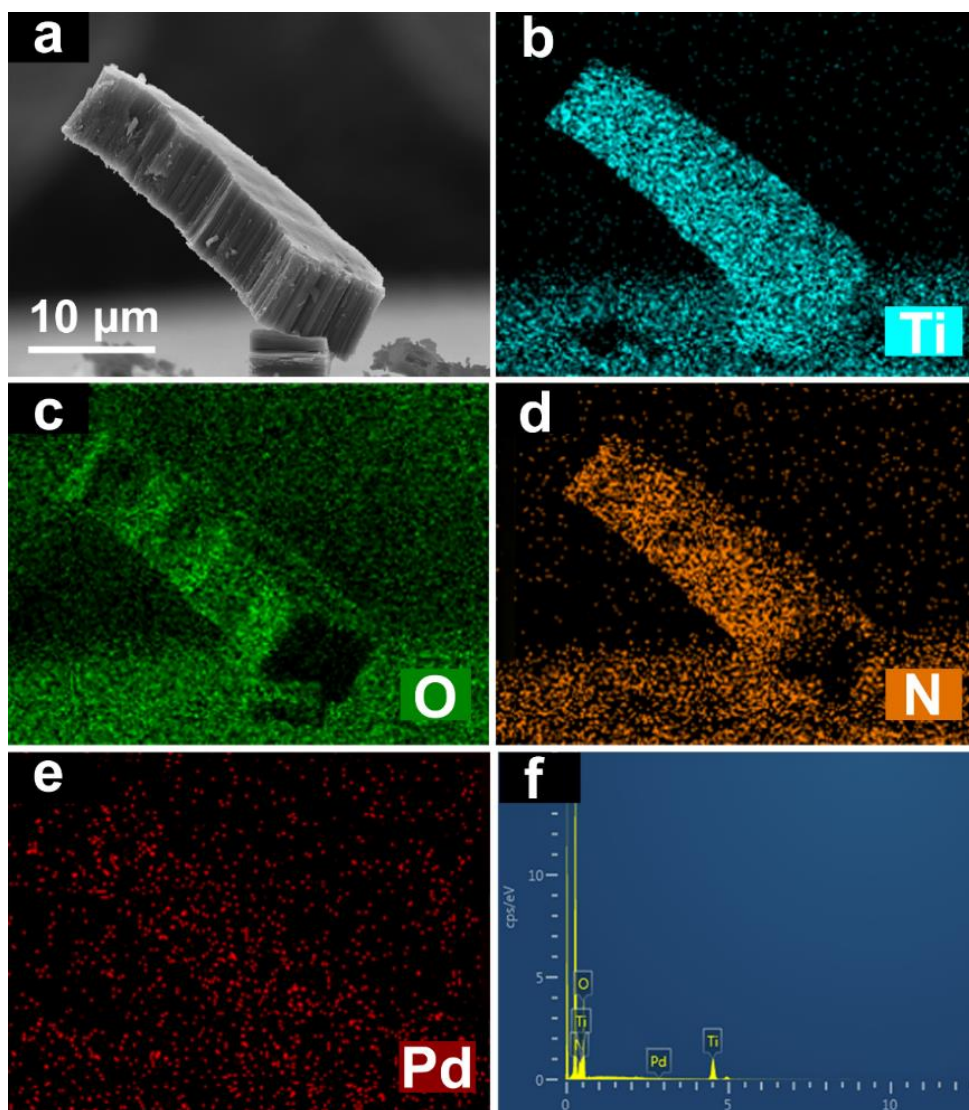


**Fig. S9.** STEM images of TNTAs@8A6P.

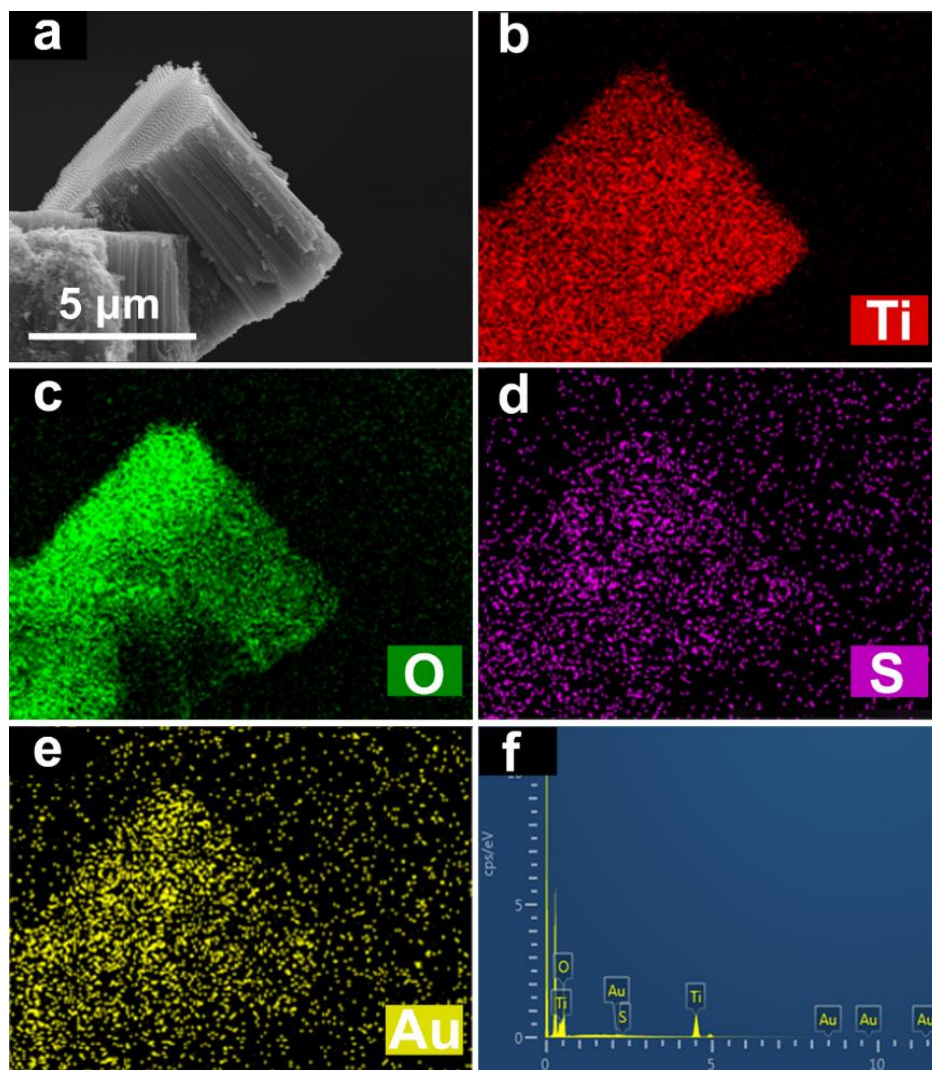


**Fig. S10.** (a) STEM image of TNTAs@6P8A with (b-h) elemental mapping results.

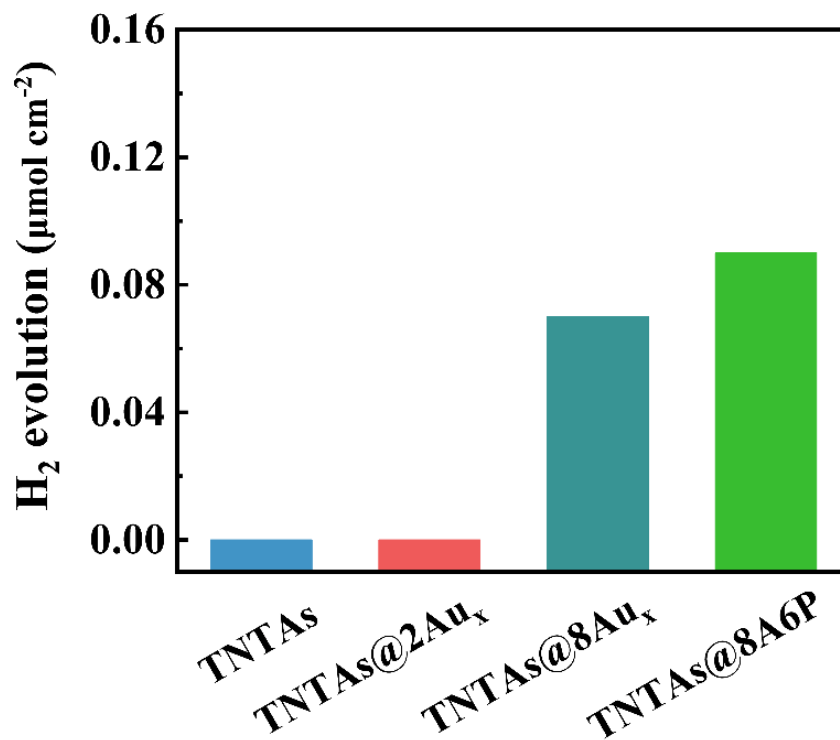
**Note:** The more enhanced Au signal relative to Pd is ascribed to the successive self-assembly of Pd@DMAP and Au<sub>x</sub>@GSH NCs on the TNTAs substrate in TNTAs@6P8A. The S signal is from the GSH ligand of Au<sub>x</sub> NCs and N signal arises from the DMAP ligand of Pd NYS.



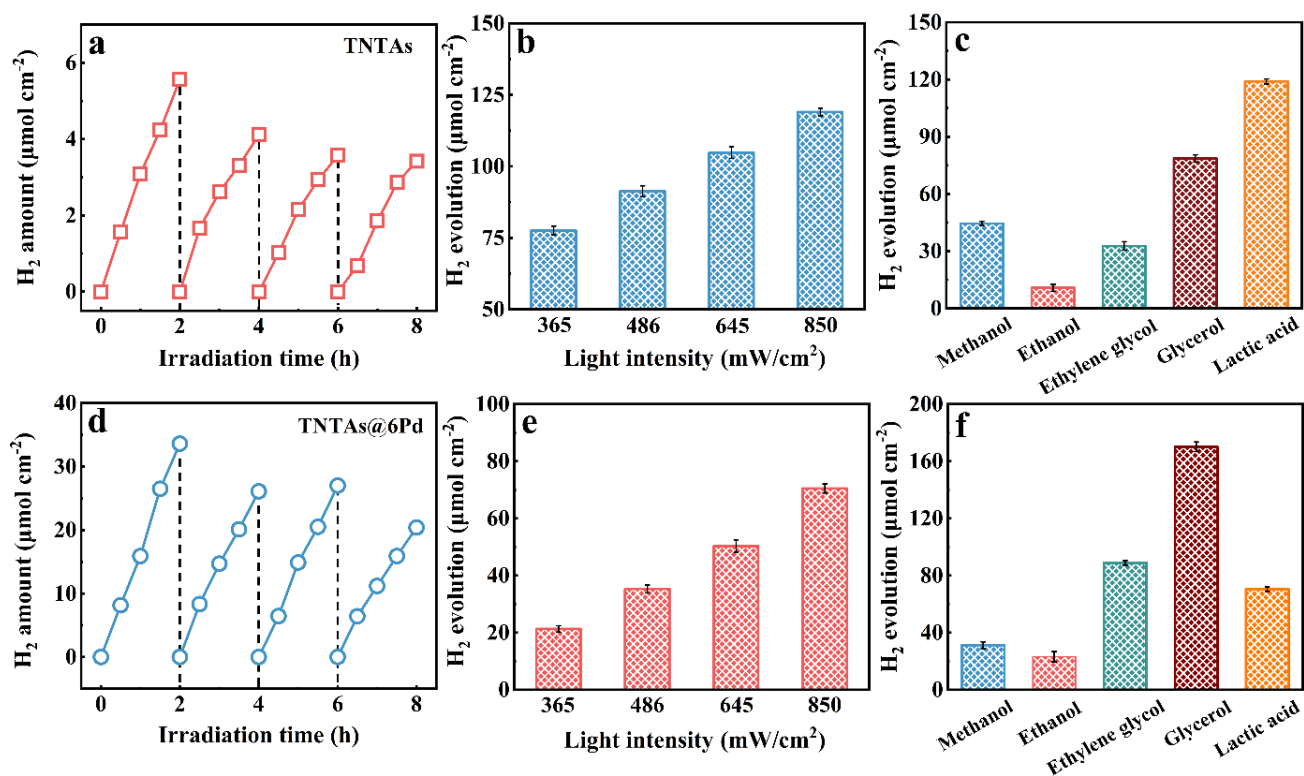
**Fig. S11.** (a) FESEM image of TNTAs@6Pd with (b-e) elemental mapping and (f) EDS results.



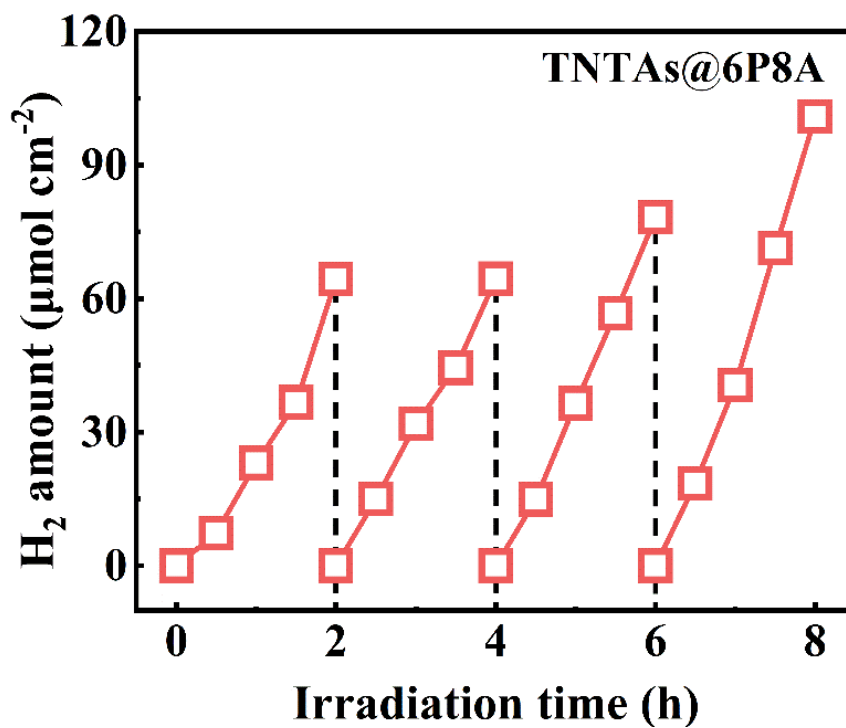
**Fig. S12.** (a) FESEM image of TNTAs@8Au<sub>x</sub> with (b-e) elemental mapping and (f) EDS results.



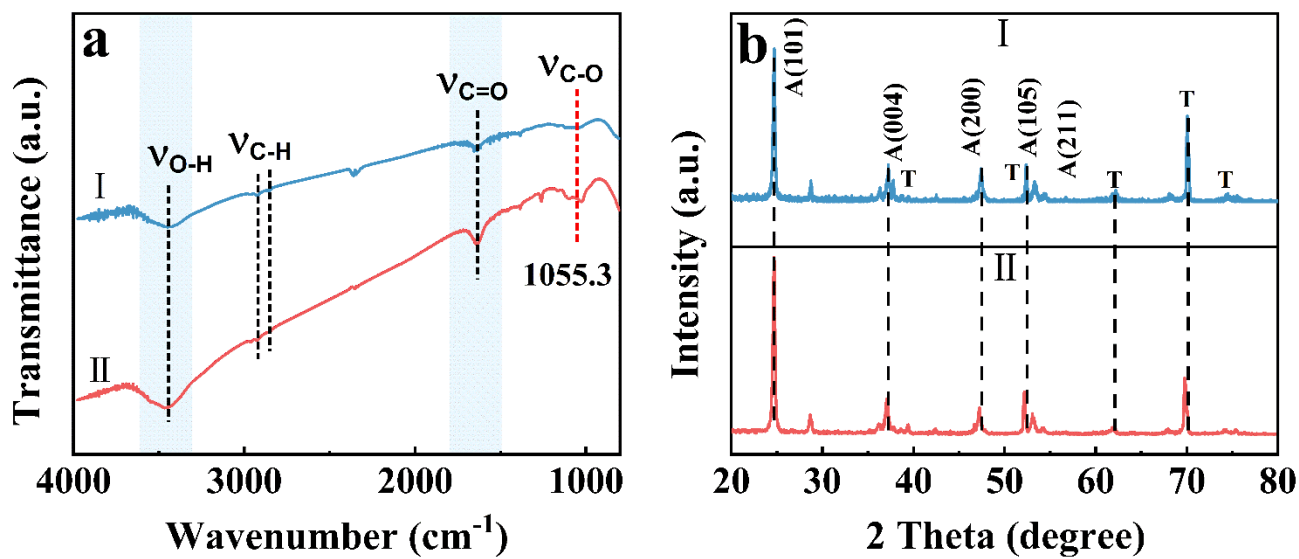
**Fig. S13.** Photocatalytic H<sub>2</sub> evolution rates of TNTAs, TNTAs@2Au<sub>x</sub>, TNTAs@8Au<sub>x</sub>, and TNTAs@8A6P under visible light irradiation ( $\lambda > 420$  nm) for 2 h.



**Fig. S14.** Cyclic photocatalytic H<sub>2</sub> evolution performances of (a) TNTAs and (d) TNTAs@6Pd under continuous simulated solar light (200 nm <math>\lambda</math> <math><800\text{ nm}</math>) irradiation for 8 h, photocatalytic H<sub>2</sub> evolution rates of (b) TNTAs@8A6P and (e) TNTAs@6P8A under simulated solar light irradiation with different light intensity (365, 486, 645, 850 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>) and photocatalytic H<sub>2</sub> evolution performances of (c) TNTAs@8A6P and (f) TNTAs@6P8A in the presence of different sacrificial reagents under simulated solar light (200 nm <math>\lambda</math> <math><800\text{ nm}</math>) irradiation.

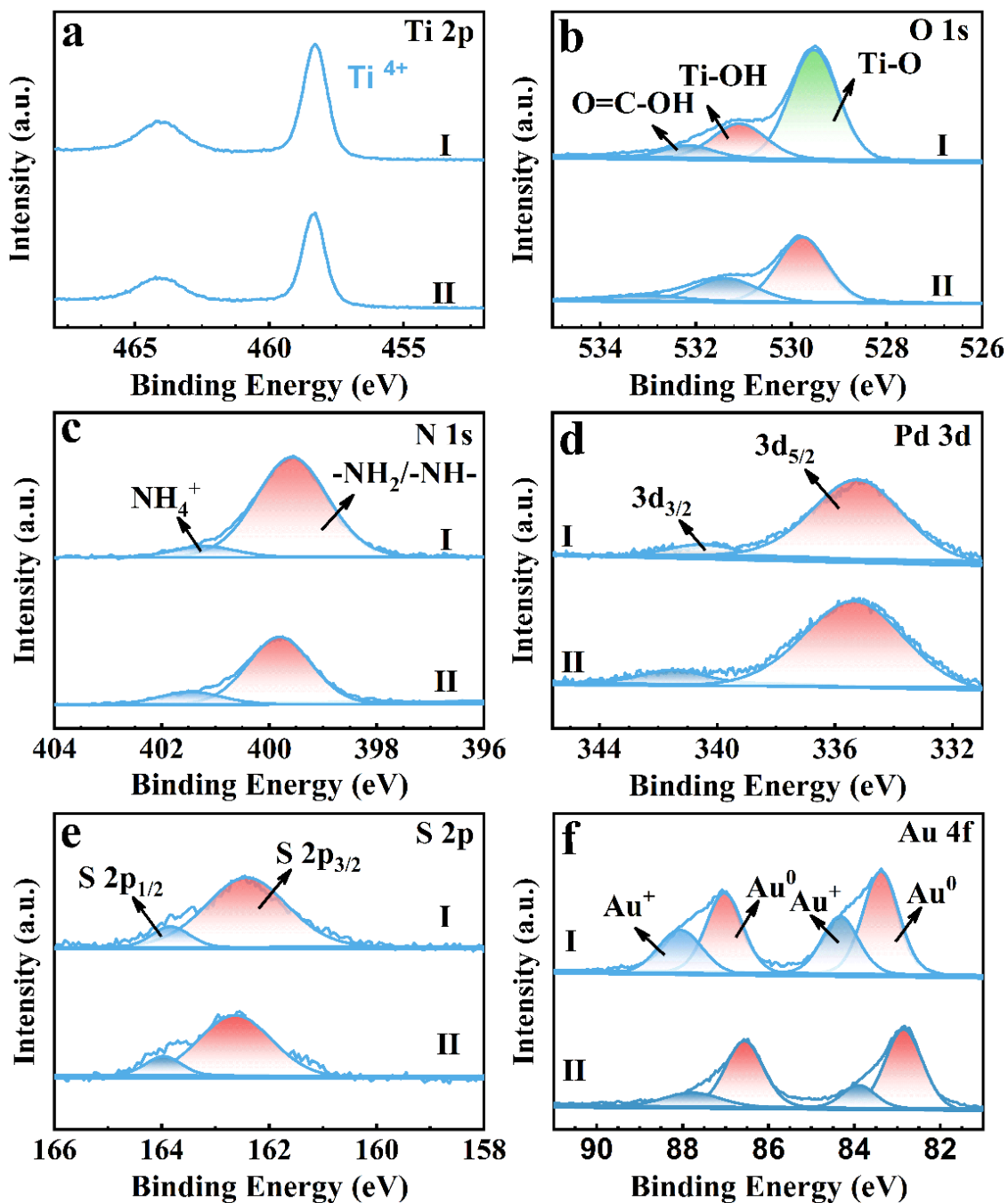


**Fig. S15.** TNTAs@6P8A under continuous simulated solar light ( $200\text{ nm} < \lambda < 800\text{ nm}$ ) irradiation for 8 h.

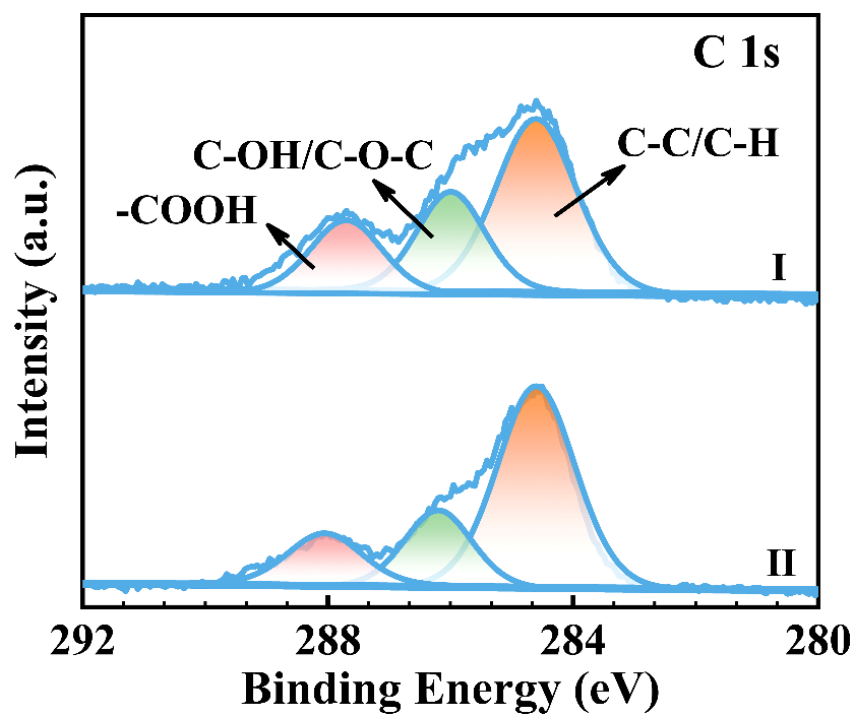


**Fig. S16.** (a) FTIR spectra and (b) XRD patterns of TNTAs@8A6P (I) before and (II) after cyclic reactions.

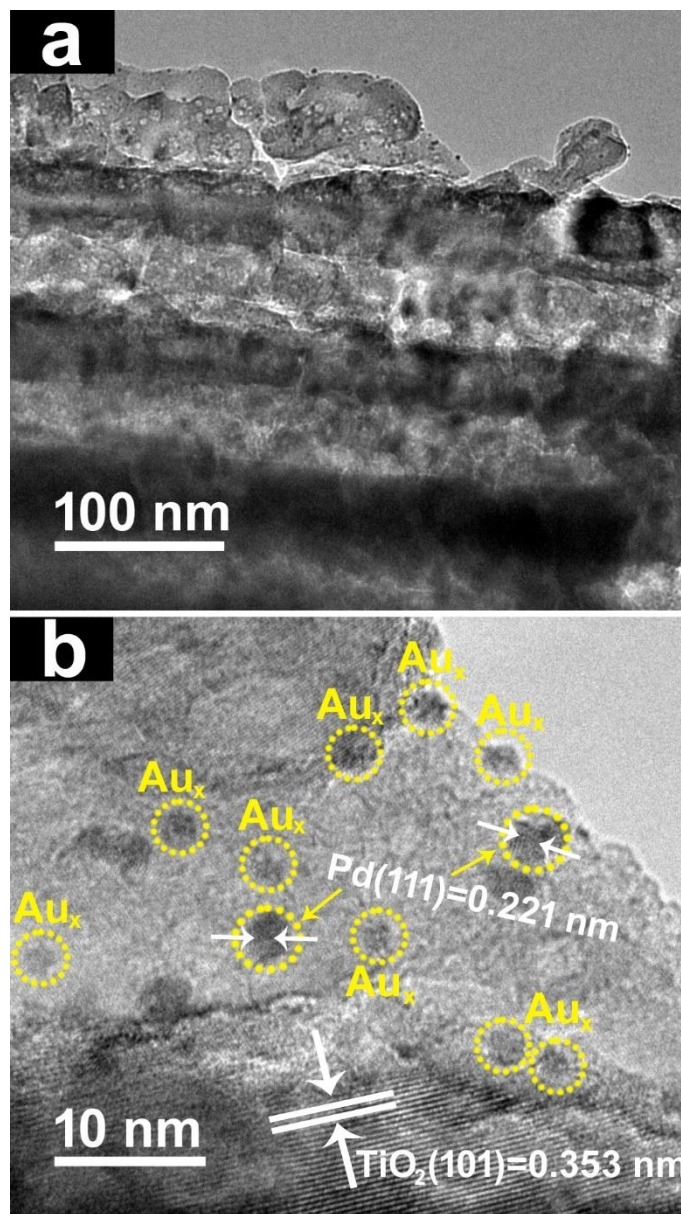




**Fig. S17.** High-resolution (c) Ti 2p, (d) O 1s, (e) N 1s, (f) Pd 3d, (g) S 2p and (h) Au 4f spectra of TNTAs@8A6P (I) before and (II) after cyclic reactions.

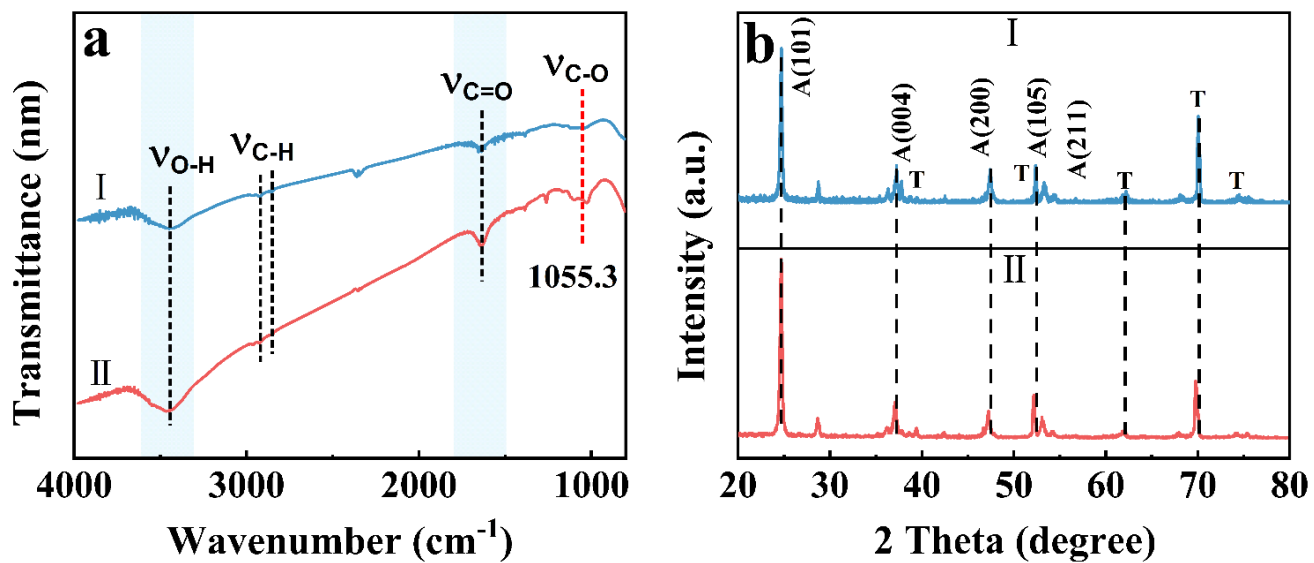


**Fig. S18.** High-resolution C 1s spectra of TNTAs@8A6P (I) before and (II) after cyclic reactions.

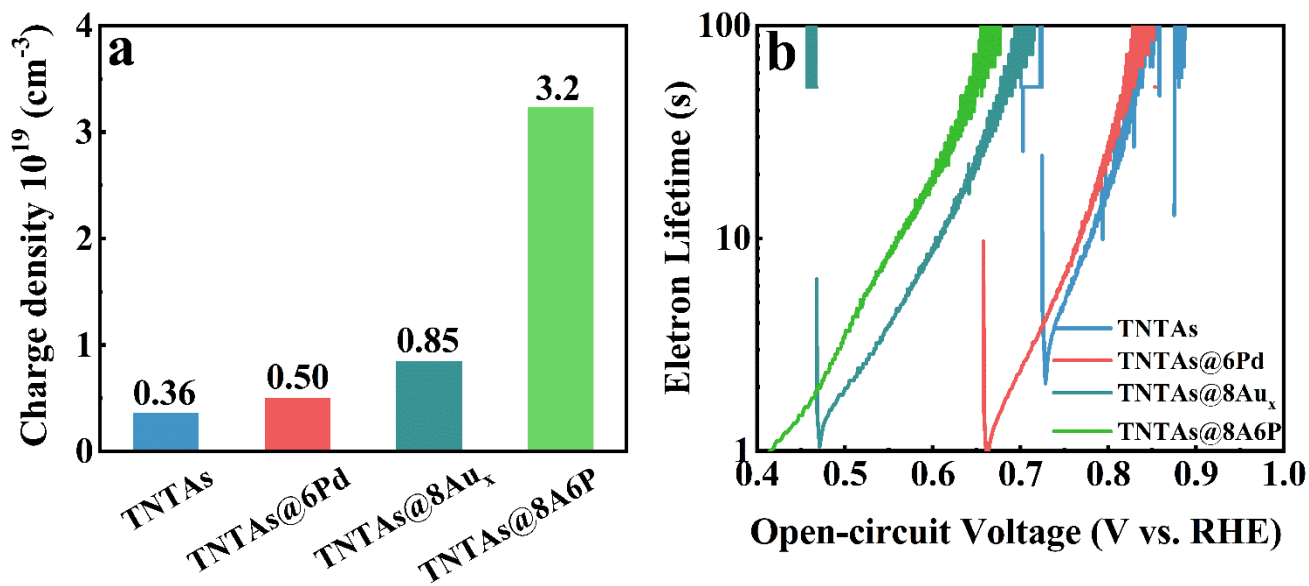


**Fig. S19.** (a) TEM and (b) HRTEM images of TNTAs@8A6P after cyclic reactions.

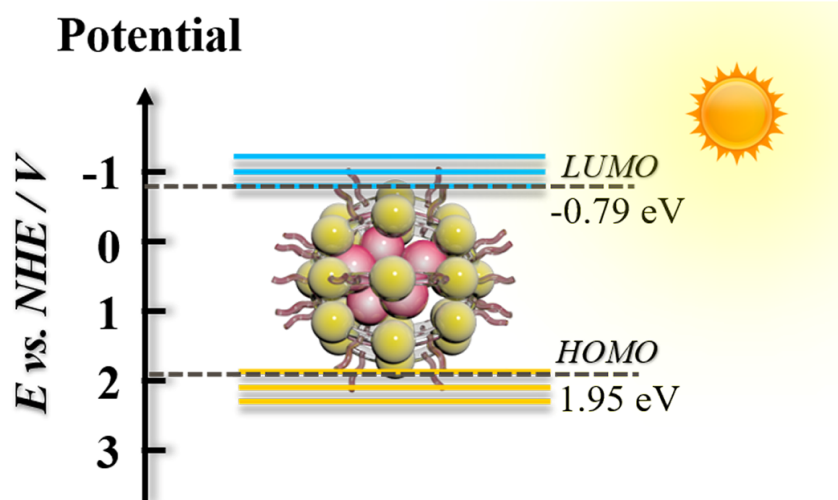
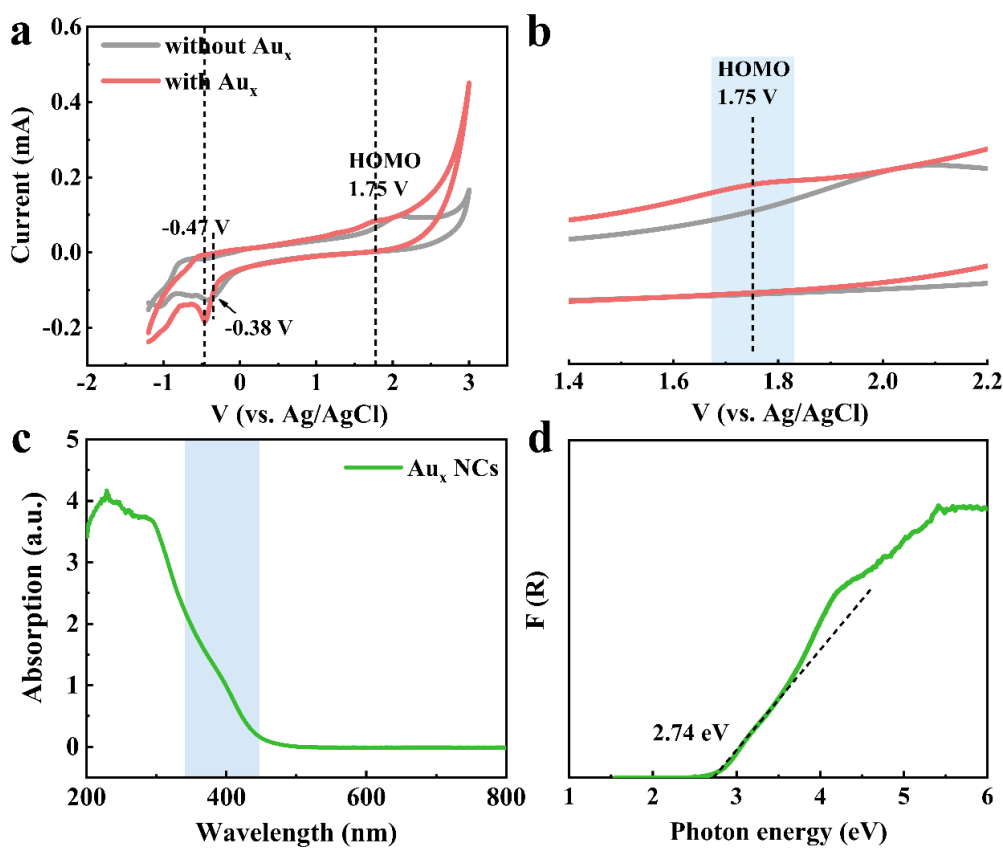
**Note:** A large amount of amorphous  $\text{Au}_x\text{@GSH}$  NCs are found in the HRTEM image of TNTAs@8A6P after cyclic reactions, indicating atomically precise  $\text{Au}_x\text{@GSH}$  NCs are retained even after continuous simulated solar light irradiation, which might be ascribed to the protection of Pd@DMAP NYs on the outermost layer, which retards the *in-situ* self-transformation of  $\text{Au}_x\text{@GSH}$  NCs to Au NPs.



**Fig. S20.** (a) FTIR spectra and (b) XRD patterns of TNTAs@6P8A (I) before and (II) after cyclic reactions.

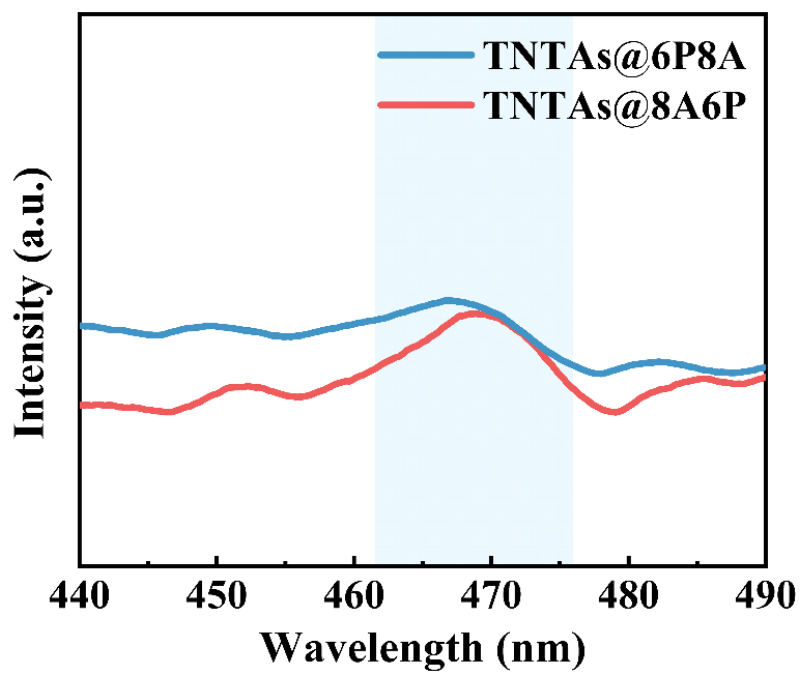


**Fig. S21.** (a) Charge carrier densities ( $N_D$ ) and (b) electron lifetime of TNTAs, TNTAs@6Pd, TNTAs@8Au<sub>x</sub>, and TNTAs@8A6P.

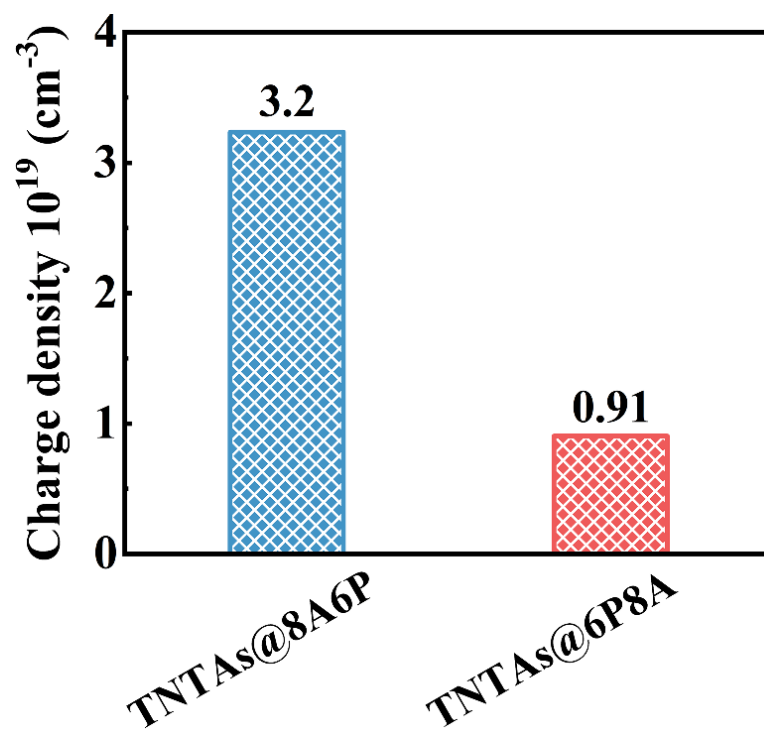


**Fig. S22.** (a) CV curves of  $\text{Au}_x\text{@GSH}$  NCs (electrolyte: degassed acetonitrile containing  $0.1 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  TEAP); (b) magnified image; (c) UV-vis absorption spectra of  $\text{Au}_x\text{@GSH}$  NCs with (d) bandgap determination.

**Note:** CV curve of  $\text{Au}_x\text{@GSH}$  NCs shows an oxidation potential at 1.95 V (vs. NHE). Considering the bandgap of  $\text{Au}_x\text{@GSH}$  NCs (2.62 eV, **Fig. 1d**), LUMO level of  $\text{Au}_x\text{@GSH}$  NCs is determined to be -0.79 (vs. NHE). Thus, electrons photoexcited over  $\text{Au}_x\text{@GSH}$  NCs can flow from the LOMO level to the CB of  $\text{TiO}_2$  (-0.53 V vs. NHE) in terms of favorable energy level alignment.

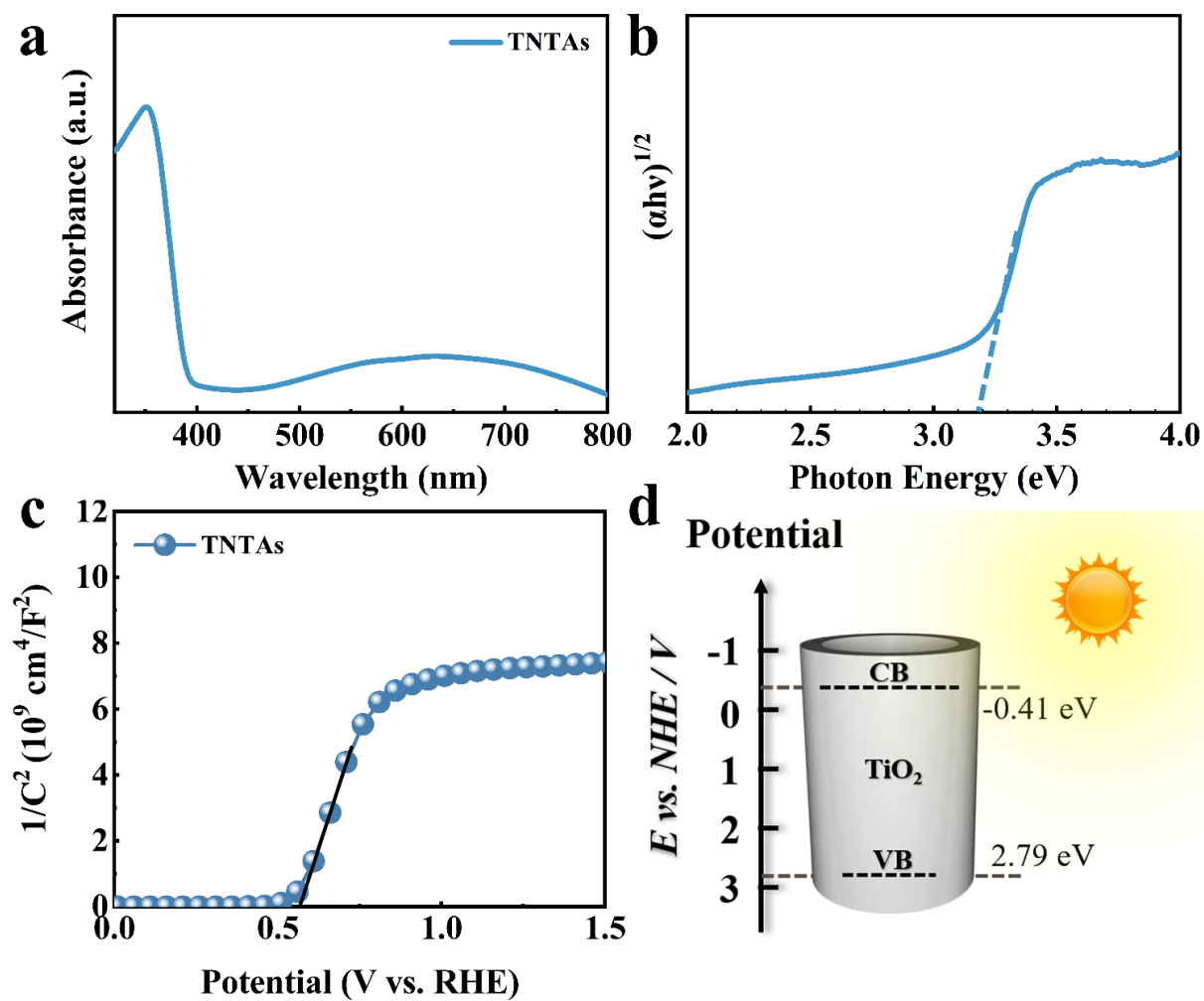


**Fig. S23.** PL spectra of TNTAs@8A6P and TNTAs@6P8A ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}}=450$  nm).



**Fig. S24.** Charge carrier densities ( $N_D$ ) of TNTAs@8A6P and TNTAs@6P8A.





**Fig. S25.** (a) DRS results and (b) transformed plots based on the Kubelka-Munk function vs. the energy of light for TNTAs; (c) mott-Schottky plots; (d) energy level diagram of  $\text{TiO}_2$ .

**Table S1.** Peak position with corresponding functional groups.

<i>Peak position (cm<sup>-1</sup>)</i>	<i>Vibration mode</i>
<b>3434.3</b>	O-H stretching vibration <sup>S[10]</sup>
<b>2923.6</b>	C-H stretching vibration <sup>S[11]</sup>
<b>2850.3</b>	C-H stretching vibration
<b>1628.5</b>	C=O stretching vibration <sup>S[12]</sup>
<b>1550.4</b>	C=N stretching vibration <sup>S[11]</sup>
<b>1388.5</b>	Ti-O asymmetric vibrations <sup>S[10]</sup>

**Table S2.** Chemical bond species vs. B.E. for different samples.

<i>Element</i>	<i>TNTAs</i>	<i>TNTAs@6Pd</i>	<i>TNTAs@8A6P</i>	<i>Chemical Bond Species</i>
<b>C 1s A</b>	284.60	284.60	284.60	C-C/C-H
<b>C 1s B</b>	286.10	286.11	286.02	C-OH/C-O-C
<b>C 1s C</b>	288.16	288.05	287.86	Carboxylate (CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> ) <sup>S[13-14]</sup>
<b>Ti 2p<sub>3/2</sub></b>	458.29	458.30	458.31	Anatase (4+) <sup>S[15]</sup>
<b>Ti 2p<sub>1/2</sub></b>	464.01	464.11	464.02	Anatase (4+)
<b>O 1s A</b>	529.55	529.56	529.46	Lattice Oxygen <sup>S[16]</sup>
<b>O 1s B</b>	531.19	531.41	531.09	Ti-OH
<b>O 1s C</b>	532.29	N.D.	532.16	-COOH
<b>N 1s</b>	N.D.	399.55	399.57	-NH <sub>2</sub> /-NH- <sup>S[17]</sup>
	N.D.	N.D.	401.23	NH <sup>4+</sup>
<b>Pd 3d<sub>5/2</sub></b>	N.D.	335.88	335.28	Pd <sup>0</sup>
<b>Pd 3d<sub>3/2</sub></b>	N.D.	341.12	340.58	Pd <sup>0</sup>
<b>S 2p<sub>3/2</sub></b>	N.D.	N.D.	162.41	-SH
<b>S 2p<sub>1/2</sub></b>	N.D.	N.D.	163.85	-SH
<b>Au 4f<sub>7/2</sub></b>	N.D.	N.D.	83.38	Metallic Au <sup>0</sup>
<b>Au 4f<sub>5/2</sub></b>	N.D.	N.D.	87.03	Metallic Au <sup>0</sup>
<b>Au 4f<sub>7/2</sub></b>	N.D.	N.D.	84.36	Au <sup>+</sup>
<b>Au 4f<sub>5/2</sub></b>	N.D.	N.D.	88.04	Au <sup>+</sup>

N.D.: Not Detected.

**Table S3.** A.Q.Y and S.T.H of TNTAs@8A6P, TNTAs@8Au<sub>x</sub>, and TNTAs@6Pd at 365 nm.

<i>Photocatalyst</i>	<i>Light source</i>	<i>Activity (mmol·h<sup>-1</sup>)</i>	<i>A.Q.Y (%)</i>	<i>S.T.H (%)</i>
<b>TNTAs@8A6P</b>	365 nm	6.90	5.98	2.24
	400 nm	0.16	0.02	0.0094
	420 nm	0.048	0.0064	0.0028
	450 nm	0.062	0.0066	0.0034
	500 nm	0.063	0.0065	0.0034
	550 nm	0.065	0.0062	0.0033
	600 nm	0	0	0
<b>TNTAs@6Pd</b>	365 nm	6.4	5.6	2.07
<b>TNTAs@8Au<sub>x</sub></b>	365 nm	1.6	1.4	0.52
<b>TNTAs</b>	365 nm	0.23	0.20	0.074

**Table S4.** A.Q.Y and S.T.H of TNTAs@6Pd and TNTAs at 365 nm.

<i>Photocatalyst</i>	<i>Light source</i>	<i>Activity (mmol·h<sup>-1</sup>)</i>	<i>A.Q.Y (%)</i>	<i>S.T.H (%)</i>
<b>TNTAs@6Pd</b>	365 nm	6.4	5.6	2.07
	400 nm	0.053	0.0073	0.003
	420 nm	0	0	0
	450 nm	0	0	0
	500 nm	0	0	0
	550 nm	0	0	0
	600 nm	0	0	0
<b>TNTAs</b>	365 nm	0.23	0.20	0.074

**Table S5.** A.Q.Y and S.T.H of TNTAs@8Au<sub>x</sub> and TNTAs at 365 nm.

<i>Photocatalyst</i>	<i>Light source</i>	<i>Activity (<math>\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}</math>)</i>	<i>A.Q.Y (%)</i>	<i>S.T.H (%)</i>
<b>TNTAs@8Au<sub>x</sub></b>	365 nm	1.6	1.4	0.52
	400 nm	0	0	0
	420 nm	0	0	0
	450 nm	0	0	0
	500 nm	0	0	0
	550 nm	0	0	0
	600 nm	0	0	0
<b>TNTAs</b>	365 nm	0.23	0.20	0.074

**Table S6.** A.Q.Y and S.T.H of TNTAs@6P8A, TNTAs@6Pd, TNTAs@8Au<sub>x</sub> at 365 nm.

<i>Photocatalyst</i>	<i>Light source</i>	<i>Activity (<math>\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}</math>)</i>	<i>A.Q.Y (%)</i>	<i>S.T.H (%)</i>
<b>TNTAs@6P8A</b>	365 nm	2.2	1.9	0.71
	400 nm	0	0	0
	420 nm	0	0	0
	450 nm	0	0	0
	500 nm	0	0	0
	550 nm	0	0	0
	600 nm	0	0	0
<b>TNTAs@6Pd</b>	365 nm	6.4	5.6	2.07
<b>TNTAs@8Au<sub>x</sub></b>	365 nm	1.6	1.4	0.52
<b>TNTAs</b>	365 nm	0.23	0.20	0.074

**Table S7.** Fitted EIS results of different photoanodes under simulated solar light irradiation based on the equivalent circuit.

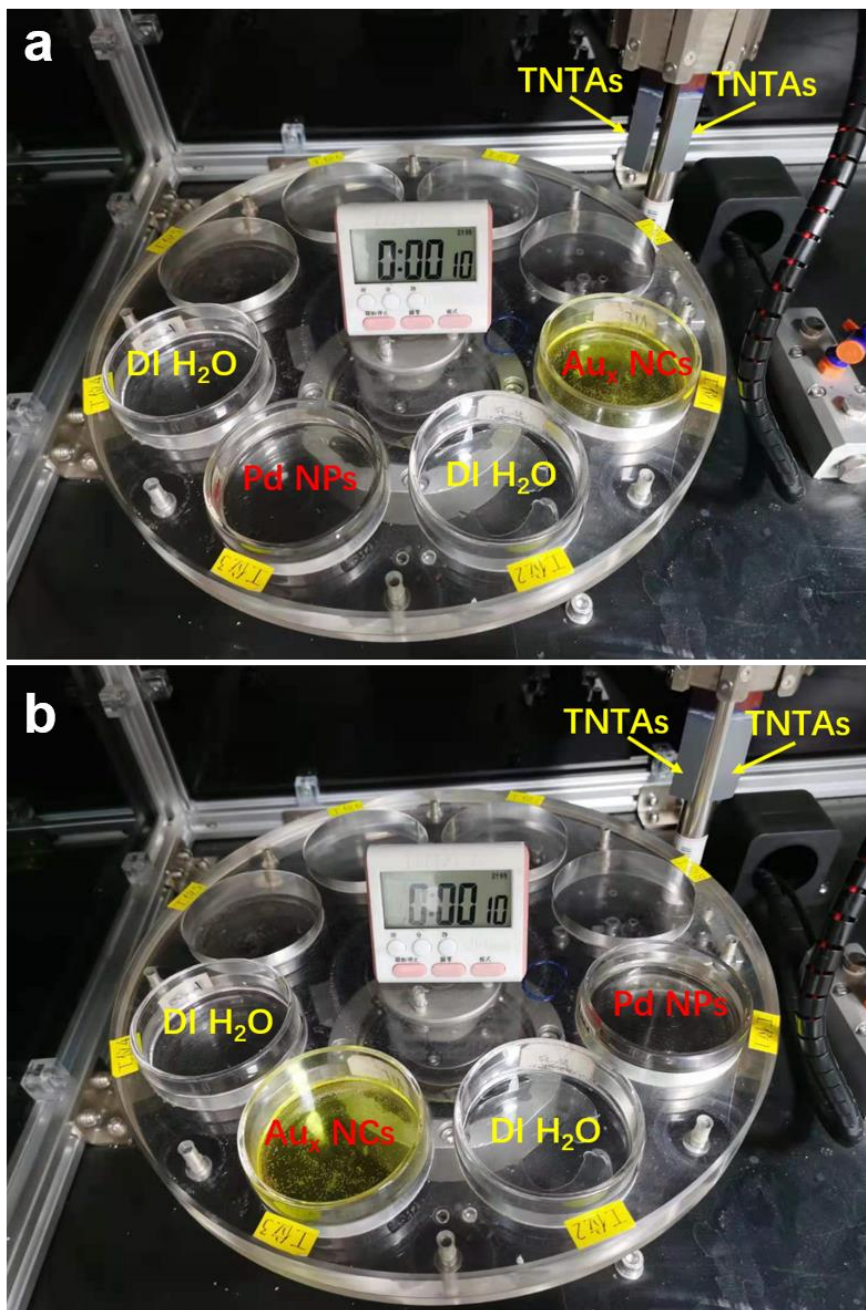
<i>Photoanode</i>	<i>R<sub>s</sub>/ohm</i>	<i>R<sub>ct</sub>/ohm</i>	<i>CPE /(F·cm<sup>-2</sup>)</i>
TNTAs	49.88	3037	0.0004022
TNTAs@6Pd	36.28	2183	0.0004044
TNTAs@8Au <sub>x</sub>	19.73	2114	0.0005146
TNTAs@8A6P	15.29	1484	0.000669
TNTAs@6P8A	21.46	1641	0.000426

**Note:** TNTAs@8A6P demonstrated the smallest R<sub>ct</sub> value compared with other counterparts, indicative of its lowest interfacial charge transfer resistance.



## Appendix

The self-designed automatic machine-based self-assembly apparatus utilized for super-efficient self-assembly of (a) TNTAs@8A6P and (b) TNTAs@6P8A heterostructures.



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