

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### Hydrogen bonding vs molecule-surface interactions in 2D self-assembly of [C<sub>60</sub>]fullerenecarboxylic acids

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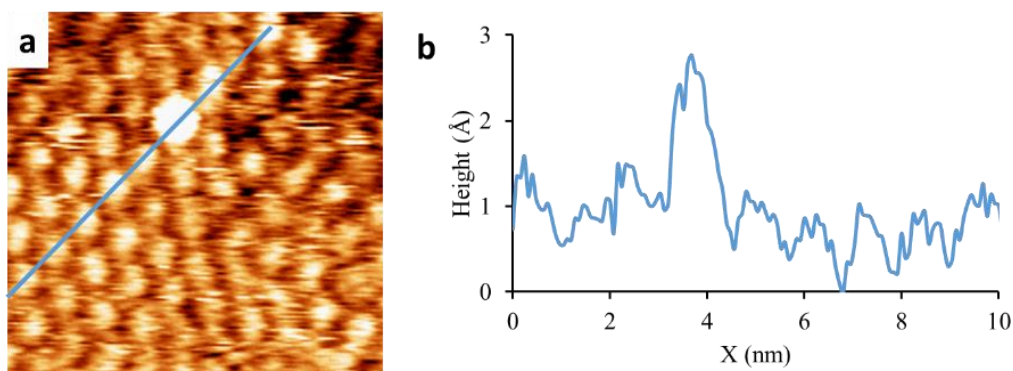


Figure S1. (a)  $10 \times 10 \text{ nm}^2$  STM micrograph showing an  $\text{C}_{61}(\text{CO}_2\text{H})_2$  admolecule on top of  $\text{C}_{61}(\text{CO}_2\text{H})_2$  monolayer at phenyloctane/Au(111) interface. (b) cross section profile along the blue line in (a)  $V_b = 600 \text{ mV}$ ,  $I_t = 0.2 \text{ nA}$

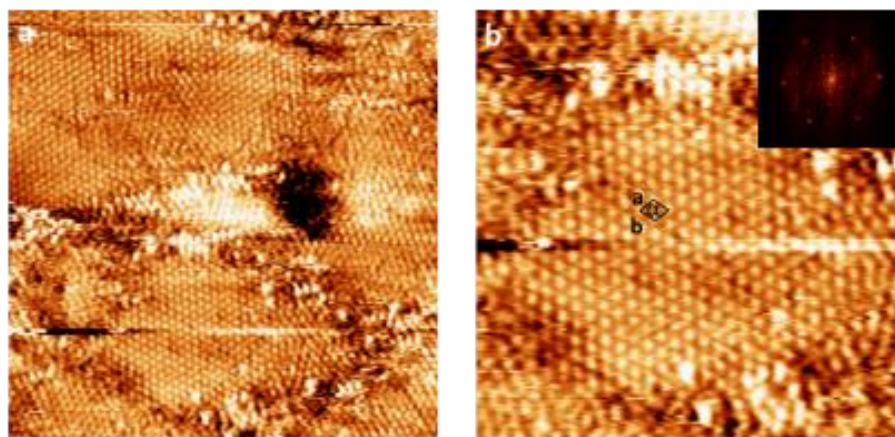


Figure S2. STM image showing the formation hexagonal close network of  $\text{C}_{60}$  on top of bare Au(111). (a)  $60 \times 60 \text{ nm}^2$ , (a)  $31 \times 31 \text{ nm}^2$ . The unit cell is:  $a=b=1.07 \pm 0.1 \text{ nm}$ ;  $\alpha=63 \pm 4^\circ$ .  $V_b = 700 \text{ mV}$ ,  $I_t = 0.3 \text{ nA}$ .

Table S1. Calculated binding energies for  $C_{61}(CO_2H)_2$  dimers and trimer, using M06-2X and dispersion-corrected (GD3BJ) B3LYP functionals, with 6-31G(d) basis set.

	Total Binding energy, <sup>a)</sup> $E_{tot}$ (kcal/mol)		VdW energy, <sup>b)</sup> $E_{vdw}$ (kcal/mol)		H bonding energy per molecule, <sup>c)</sup> $E_{H-b}$ (kcal/mol)	
	M06-2X	B3LYP	M06-2X	B3LYP	M06-2X	B3LYP
<b>Dimer I</b>	-12.4	-16.1	-1.5	-4.3	-10.8	-11.7
<b>Dimer II</b>	-11.0	-12.3	-	-	-11.0	-12.3
<b>Dimer III</b>	-9.8	-11.4	-	-	-9.8	-11.4
<b>Trimer</b>	-14.8	-21.4	-4.3	-9.5	-10.6	-11.9

a)  $E_{tot} = E(\text{cluster}) - nE(\text{monomer})$ , where  $n$  is the number of monomers in a cluster. b) This was estimated as a total binding energy of corresponding (dimer/trimer) clusters of unsubstituted  $C_{60}$  fullerene. c)  $E_{H-b} = (E_{tot} - E_{vdw})/n$ , where  $E_{vdw}$  was calculated from the analogues clusters lacking COOH groups.

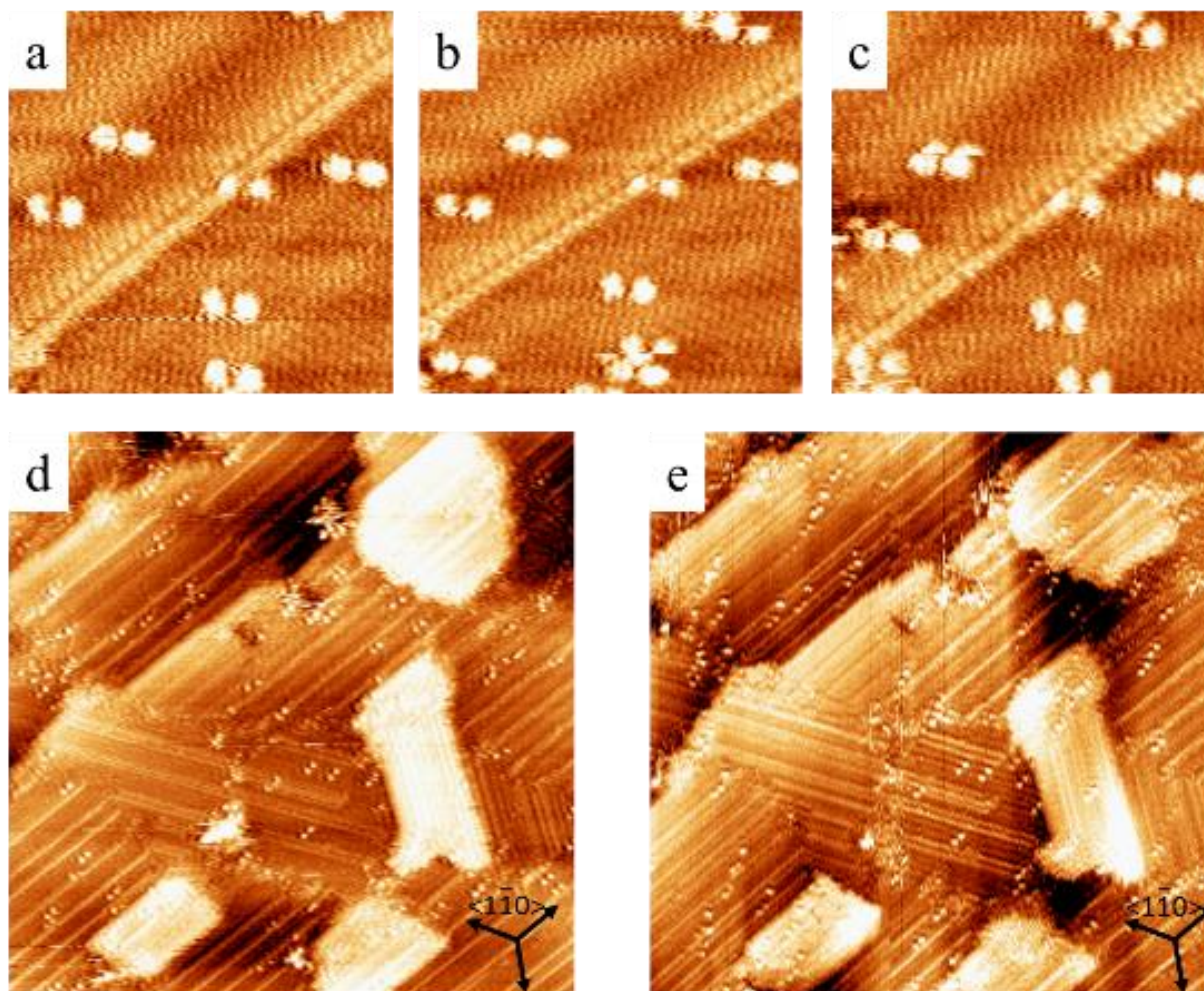


Figure S3. (a), (b), and (c) Consecutive STM images showing the stability of  $C_{61}-(CO_2H)_2$  dimers. ( $13.8 \times 13.8 \text{ nm}^2$ ). (d) and (e) a representative  $81 \times 81 \text{ nm}$  STM image of  $C_{61}-(CO_2H)_2$  dimers on PFBT/Au at  $0^\circ$  and  $90^\circ$  scanning angle respectively.  $V_b = 800 \text{ mV}$ ,  $I_t = 0.15 \text{ nA}$ .

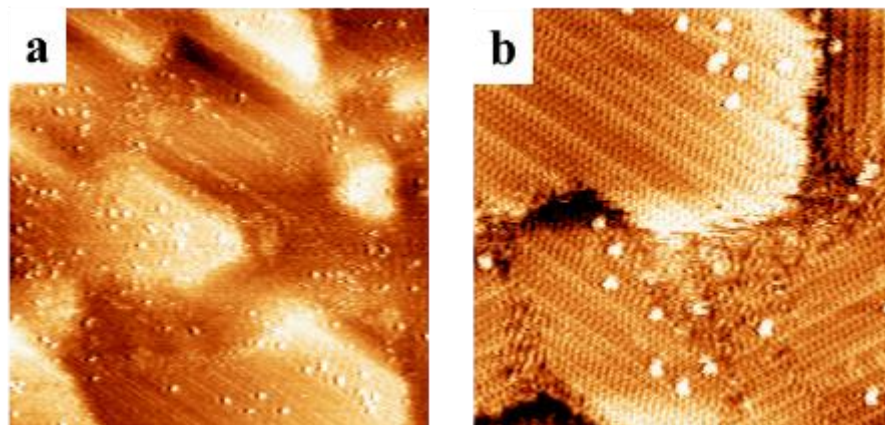


Figure S4. (a) Representative  $70 \times 70 \text{ nm}^2$  STM images of  $\text{C}_{61}(\text{CO}_2\text{Et})_2$  on PFBT/Au. (b) High resolution STM image showing isolated  $\text{C}_{61}(\text{CO}_2\text{Et})_2$  molecules.  $31 \times 31 \text{ nm}^2$ .  $V_b = 700 \text{ mV}$ ,  $I_t = 0.15 \text{ nA}$

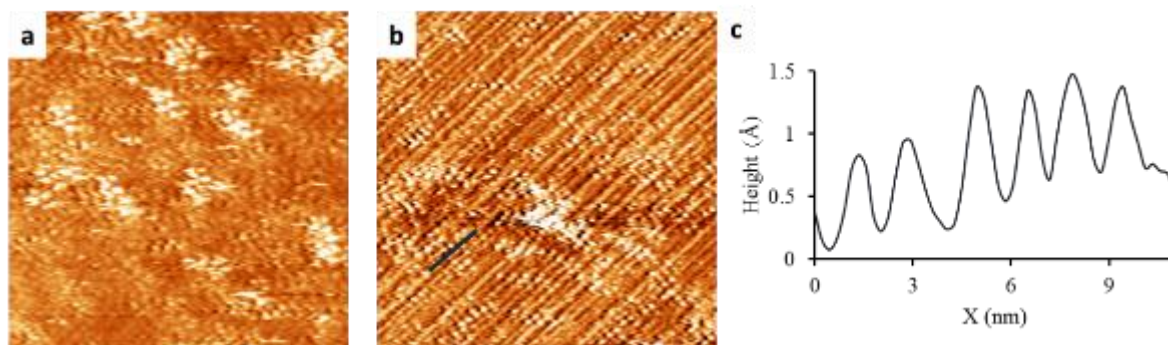


Figure S5. (a) STM images showing domains of a  $\text{C}_{66}(\text{CO}_2\text{H})_{12}$  monolayer on PFBT/Au (111). (b) STM image showing one domain of  $\text{C}_{66}(\text{CO}_2\text{H})_{12}$ .  $60 \times 60 \text{ nm}^2$ . (c) Cross sectional profile along the blue line in (b).  $V_b = 800 \text{ mV}$ ,  $I_t = 0.2 \text{ nA}$ .

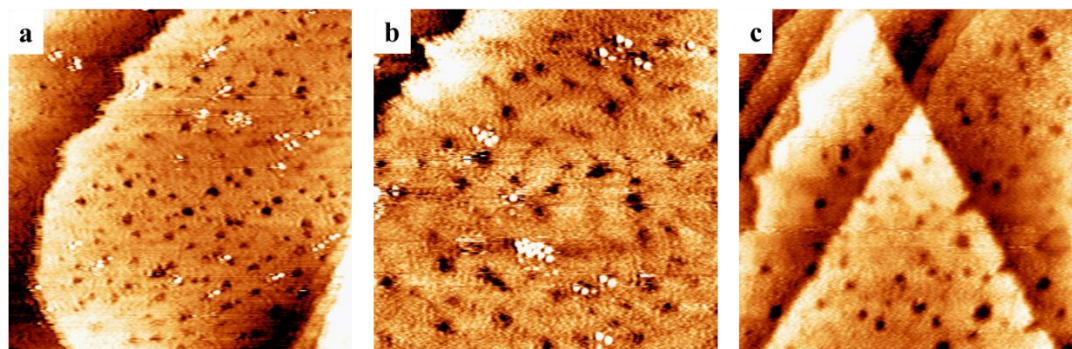


Figure S6. (a) and (b) STM images of phenyloctane/ BT@Au(111) in the presence of  $\text{C}_{61}(\text{CO}_2\text{H})_2$  (a few scattered clusters are visible).  $98 \times 98 \text{ nm}^2$  and  $60 \times 60 \text{ nm}^2$ . (c) STM image of phenyloctane/ BT@Au(111) in the presence of  $\text{C}_{61}(\text{CO}_2\text{Et})_2$  (no adsorption).  $64 \times 64 \text{ nm}^2$ .  $V_b = 800 \text{ mV}$ ,  $I_t = 0.15 \text{ nA}$ .

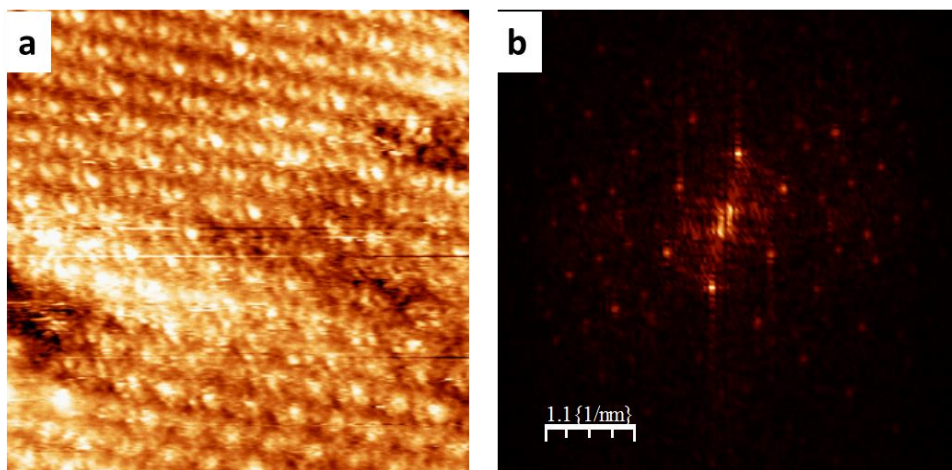


Figure S7. (a) Representative  $18 \times 18 \text{ nm}^2$  STM image of  $\text{C}_{66}(\text{CO}_2\text{H})_{12}$  at phenyloctane/Au (111) interface. (b) Fourier transform (FFT) image of the STM micrograph.