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Spherical camera with  
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# Dynamically tunable hemispherical electronic eye camera system with adjustable zoom capability

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Imaging systems that exploit arrays of photodetectors in curvilinear layouts are attractive due to their ability to match the strongly nonplanar image surfaces (i.e., Petzval surfaces) that form with simple lenses, thereby creating new design options. Recent work has yielded significant progress in the realization of such “eyeball” cameras, including examples of fully functional silicon devices capable of collecting realistic images. Although these systems provide advantages compared to those with conventional, planar designs, their fixed detector curvature renders them incompatible with changes in the Petzval surface that accompany variable zoom achieved with simple lenses. This paper describes a class of digital imaging device that overcomes this limitation, through the use of photodetector arrays on thin elastomeric membranes, capable of reversible deformation into hemispherical shapes with radii of curvature that can be adjusted dynamically, via hydraulics. Combining this type of detector with a similarly tunable, fluidic plano-convex lens yields a hemispherical camera with variable zoom and excellent imaging characteristics. Systematic experimental and theoretical studies of the mechanics and optics reveal all underlying principles of operation. This type of technology could be useful for night-vision surveillance, endoscopic imaging, and other areas that require compact cameras with simple zoom optics and wide-angle fields of view.

biomimetic | electronic eyeball camera | flexible electronics | fluidic tunable lens | hydraulic actuation

Mammalian eyes provide the biological inspiration for hemispherical cameras, where Petzval-matched curvature in the photodetector array can dramatically simplify lens design without degrading the field of view, focal area, illumination uniformity, or image quality (1). Such systems use photodetectors in curvilinear layouts due to their ability to match the strongly nonplanar image surfaces (i.e., Petzval surfaces) that form with simple lenses (2–4). Historical interest in such systems has culminated recently with the development of realistic schemes for their fabrication, via strategies that overcome intrinsic limitations associated with the planar operation of existing semiconductor processes (4–6). The most promising procedures involve either direct printing of devices and components onto curved surfaces (6) or geometrical transformation of initially planar systems into desired shapes (1, 7–9). All demonstrated designs involve rigid, concave device substrates, to achieve improved performance compared to planar cameras when simple lenses with fixed magnification are used. Interestingly, biology and evolution do not provide guides for achieving the sort of large-range, adjustable zoom capabilities that are widely available in man-made cameras. The most relevant examples are in avian vision, where shallow pits in the retina lead to images with two fixed levels of zoom (50% high magnification in the center of the center of the field of view) (10). Also, changes in imaging properties occur, but in an irreversible fashion, during metamorphosis in amphibian vision to accommodate transitions from aquatic to terrestrial environments (11).

The challenge in hemispherical imagers is that, with simple optics, the curvature of the Petzval surface changes with magnification in a manner that leads to mismatches with the shape of detector array. This behavior strongly degrades the imaging performance, thereby eliminating any advantages associated with the hemispherical detector design. The solution to this problem demands that the curvature of the detector array changes in a coordinated manner with the magnification, to ensure identical shapes for the image and detector surfaces at all zoom settings. In the following, we report a system that accomplishes this outcome by use of an array of interconnected silicon photodetectors on a thin, elastomeric membrane, in configurations that build on advanced concepts of stretchable electronics (12–14). Actuating a fluidic chamber beneath the membrane causes it to expand or contract in a linear elastic, reversible fashion that provides precise control of the radius of curvature. Integrating a similarly actuated fluidic plano-convex lens yields a complete, hemispherical camera system with continuously adjustable zoom.

## Results and Discussion

Fig. 1A provides a schematic illustration of the elements of the device and Fig. 1B shows a picture of an integrated system. The upper and lower components correspond to an adjustable, plano-convex zoom lens and a tunable, hemispherical detector array, respectively. The lens uses adapted versions of similar components described elsewhere (15–18); it consists of a water-filled cavity (1-mm thick, in the planar, unpressurized state) between a thin (0.2 mm) membrane of the transparent elastomer poly(dimethylsiloxane) (PDMS) on top and a glass window (1.5-mm thick) underneath. Pumping water into this cavity deforms the elastomer into a hemispherical shape, with a radius of curvature that depends on the pressure. This curvature, together with the index of refraction of the PDMS and water, defines the focal length of the lens and, therefore, the magnification that it can provide. Fig. 1C shows images of the detector array viewed through the fluidic lens, at two different positive pressures. The changes in magnification evident in Fig. 1C are reversible and can be quantified through measurement and mechanics modeling. Fig. 1D presents side view images and data collected at various states of deformation. The lens adopts an approximately hemispherical shape for all tuning states, with an apex height and radius of curvature ( $R_L$ ) that change with pressure in a manner

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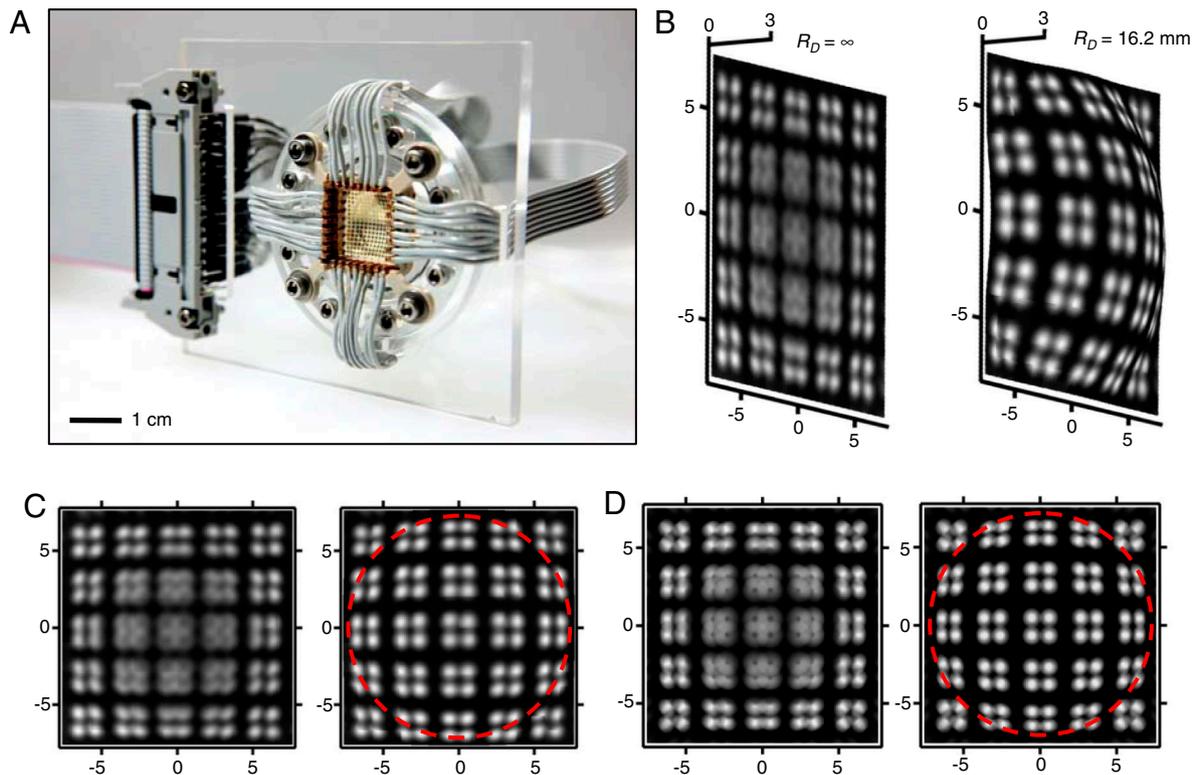




lar modeling can be used to define the distribution of strains across both the PDMS membrane and the array of silicon photodiodes and blocking diodes. The results (Fig. 2*B*) show strains in both materials that are far below their thresholds for fracture (>150% for PDMS; ~1% for silicon). The overall computed shape of the system also compares well to measurement. Further study illustrates that this level of agreement persists across all tuning states, as illustrated in Fig. 2*C*. Finite element analysis (lower frame of Fig. 2*B*) shows that the serpentine interconnects have negligible effects on the photodetector positions (20). Understanding their behavior is nevertheless important because they provide electrical interconnection necessary for operation. Three-dimensional finite element analysis of a square  $2 \times 2$  cluster of four unit cells appears in Fig. 2*D*. The color shading shows the maximum principal strains in the silicon and metal, which are the most fragile materials in the detectors. The calculated peak strains in the materials are all exceptionally low, even for this case where the overall biaxial strain is ~12%, corresponding to the point of highest strain in the array when tuned to the most highly curved configuration.

Fig. 3*A* presents a picture of a completed detector with external interconnection wiring to a ribbon cable that interfaces with an external data acquisition system (1). Here, a top-mounted fixture with a circular opening supports 32 electrode pins that mechanically press against corresponding pads at the periphery of the detector array. A compression element with four cantilever springs at each corner ensures uniformity in the applied pressure, to yield a simple and robust interconnection scheme (no failures

for more than 100 tuning cycles). These features and the high yields on the photodetector arrays enable cameras that can collect realistic images, implemented here with resolution enhancements afforded by scanning procedures to allow detailed comparison to theory (see *SI Appendix*). To explore the basic operation, we first examine behavior with a fixed imaging lens. Representative images collected with the detector in planar and hemispherical configurations appear in Fig. 3*B*. The object in this case consists of a pattern of discs (diameters, 2 mm; distances between near neighbors, 3 mm; distances between distant neighbors, 5 mm), placed 75 mm in front of a glass plano-convex lens (diameter, 9 mm; focal length, 22.8 mm). The image in the flat state corresponds to a distance of 26.2 mm from the lens, or 5.5 mm closer to the lens than the nominal position of the image computed with thin lens equations. At this location, the regions of the image in the far periphery of the field of view (i.e., the four corners) are in focus. The center of the field of view is not simultaneously in focus because of the Petzval surface curvature associated with the image. Deforming the detector array into a concave shape moves the center region away from the lens and toward the position of the image predicted by the thin lens equation. The hemispherical shape simultaneously aligns other parts of the detector with corresponding parts of the image. As a result, the entire field of view comes into focus at once. Planar projections of these images are shown in Fig. 3*C*. Simulated images based on experimental parameters appear in Fig. 3*D*. The results used ray-tracing calculations and exploited the cylindrical symmetry of the device (21, 22). In particular, fans



**Fig. 3.** (A) Photograph of a deformable detector array with external electrical interconnections. Electrode pins on a mounting plate press against matching electrodes at the periphery of the array to establish connections to a ribbon cable that leads to a data acquisition system. (B) Images of a test pattern of bright circular discs, acquired by the device in flat (*Left*) and deformed hemispherical (*Right*) configurations, collected using a glass plano-convex lens (diameter, 9 mm; focal length, 22.8 mm). The images are rendered on surfaces that match those of the detector array. The distance between the lens and the source image is 75 mm. The radius of curvature and the maximum deflection in this deformed state are 16.2 and 2.2 mm, respectively. The image in the flat case was collected at a distance of 5.5 mm closer to the lens than the focal location expected by the thin lens approximation (31.7 mm). In this position, only the far peripheral regions of the image are in focus. The image in the curved configuration was acquired simply by actuating the detector into this shape, without changing any other aspect of the setup. This deformation brings the entire field of view into focus, due to matching of the detector shape to the Petzval surface. (C) Planar projections of these images. The dashed circle indicates the area under deformation. (D) Modeling results corresponding to these two cases, obtained by ray-tracing calculation. The outcomes show quantitative agreement with the measurements. The dashed circle indicates the area under deformation.



the system. A gauge (diaphragm gauge 0 ~ 3 psi, Noshok) was used to monitor the pressure.

For electrical connection, the top insulating layers covering the electrode pads at the periphery of the detector array were removed by RIE (CS 1701 Reactive Ion Etching System, Nordson MARCH) through an elastomeric shadow mask. These electrodes press against copper electrode pins on a mounting plate designed with four cantilever springs at its corners. To ensure good electrical contact, the surfaces of the pins were polished and then coated with metal layers by electron beam deposition [Cr (20 nm)/Au (400 nm)]. Each electrode pin was connected to an electrical wire using conductive epoxy (CW2400, Chemtronics); these wires were assembled with a pin connector which connects to a ribbon cable.

**Fabricating the Tunable Lens.** The tunable lens simply consists of a thin PDMS membrane (0.2 mm in thickness, 25.4 mm in diameter) and a glass window (12.5 mm in diameter, 1.5 mm in thickness; Edmund Optics) attached to a plastic supporting piece by epoxy (ITW Devcon). The separation between the PDMS membrane and the glass window was ~1 mm. To ensure a water-tight seal, the membrane was squeezed between two plastic plates. A hole in the top plate defined the diameter of the lens (9 mm). Gauges (diaphragm gauge 0 ~ 10 psi, Noshok; differential gauge 0 ~ 20 psi, Orange Research) were used to measure the pressure.

**Capturing Images.** Diffusive light from an array of light emitting diodes (MB-BL4X4, Metaphase Technologies) provided a source for illumination. The objects consisted of printed transparency films (laser photoplotting, CAD/Art Services) or metal plates machined by laser cutting. In all cases, images were rendered by combining datasets collected by stepping the detector along two orthogonal axes  $x$ ,  $y$  normal to the optic axis. Either 10 or 20 steps with spacings of 92  $\mu\text{m}$  for each axis were used to achieve effective resolutions of 100 times larger than the number of photodetectors. Lookup tables and automated computer codes were used, in some cases, to eliminate the effects of malfunctioning pixels.

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# Supporting Information

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## Supplementary Methods and Discussion

The following provides information on fabricating and transferring the photodetector array, on the pneumatic tuning system and electrical connection hardware, on techniques for determining the surface geometry and pixel positions, on the mechanical analysis and on evaluation of the tunable lens and the imaging process.

### **Fabrication Process of Photodetector Array and I-V Characteristics**

The steps for fabricating the photodetector array generally follow procedures previously reported(1), although the specific designs here are adapted for to allow tunable mechanics and improved performance in the photodetectors. For the latter, the major changes are in the use of the solid source doping, both for  $p$  and  $n$  type, to replace the use of spin-on-dopants. The response of a representative individual pixel appears in the Fig. S1. Detailed fabrication procedures are as follows.

#### *Fabrication procedure for photodetector array*

##### ***p+ doping***

1. Clean 1.25 $\mu\text{m}$  SOI wafer (acetone, IPA, water, drying at 110°C for 5min).
2. Clean by HF for 2s.
3. Deposit PECVD SiO<sub>2</sub> 900nm.
4. Treat with HMDS for 1.5min.
5. Pattern PR (p+ doping).
6. Anneal at 110°C for 5min.
7. Etch oxide in BOE for 2.5min.
8. Remove PR by acetone and clean by piranha for 3min.
9. Expose to diffusive boron source at 1000°C for 30min.
10. Clean the processed wafer (HF 1min, piranha 10min, BOE 1min).

##### ***n+ doping***

11. Deposit PECVD SiO<sub>2</sub> 900nm.
12. Treat with HMDS for 1.5min.
13. Pattern PR (n+ doping).
14. Anneal at 110°C for 5min.
15. Etch oxide in BOE for 2.5min.

16. Remove PR by acetone and clean by piranha for 3min.
17. Expose to diffusive phosphorus source at 1000°C for 10min.
18. Clean the processed wafer (HF 1min, piranha 10min, BOE 1min).

#### ***Silicon isolation***

19. Pattern PR (Si isolation).
20. Etch silicon by RIE (50mTorr, 40sccm SF<sub>6</sub>, 100W, 3min).
21. Remove PR by acetone and clean by piranha for 3min.

#### ***Sacrificial oxide layer deposition***

22. Etch oxide layer of SOI wafer in HF for 1.5min.
23. Deposit PECVD SiO<sub>2</sub> 100nm.
24. Treat with HMDS for 1.5min.
25. Pattern PR (sacrificial layer).
26. Anneal at 110°C for 5min.
27. Etch PECVD oxide in BOE for 30s.
28. Remove PR by acetone and clean by piranha for 3min.

#### ***Deposit 1<sup>st</sup> PI***

29. Spin coat with PI (4000rpm, 60s).
30. Anneal at 110°C for 3min at 150°C for 10min.
31. Anneal at 250°C for 2h in N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere.

#### ***Pattern via holes***

32. Expose to ultraviolet induced ozone (UVO) for 5min.
33. Deposit PECVD SiO<sub>2</sub> 150nm.
34. Treat with HMDS for 1.5min.
35. Pattern PR (via pattern).
36. Etch PECVD oxide by RIE (50mTorr, 40:1.2sccm CF<sub>4</sub>:O<sub>2</sub>, 150W, 8.5min).
37. Remove PR by acetone.
38. Etch PI by RIE (150mTorr, 20sccm O<sub>2</sub>, 150W, 20min).

#### ***Metallization***

39. Etch PECVD oxide in BOE for 35s.
40. Sputter 5/150nm of Cr/Au by sputter coater (AJA international).
41. Pattern PR (metal pattern).
42. Anneal at 110°C for 5min.
43. Etch Au/Cr by wet etchants for 40/20s.

44. Remove PR by acetone (carefully).

***Deposit 2<sup>nd</sup> PI***

45. Spin coat with PI (4000rpm, 60s).

46. Anneal at 110°C for 3min at 150°C for 10min.

47. Anneal at 250°C for 2h in N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere.

***Pattern etch holes***

48. Expose to ultraviolet induced ozone (UVO) for 5min.

49. Deposit PECVD SiO<sub>2</sub> 150nm.

50. Treat with HMDS for 1.5min.

51. Pattern PR (hole pattern).

52. Etch PECVD oxide by RIE (50mTorr, 40:1.2sccm CF<sub>4</sub>:O<sub>2</sub>, 150W, 8.5min).

53. Remove PR by acetone.

54. Etch PI by RIE (150mTorr, 20sccm O<sub>2</sub>, 150W, 12min).

55. Etch Au/Cr by wet etchants for 20/5s.

56. Etch PI by RIE (150mTorr, 20sccm O<sub>2</sub>, 150W, 15min).

57. Etch silicon by RIE (50mTorr, 40sccm SF<sub>6</sub>, 100W, 3min).

***PI isolation***

58. Etch PECVD oxide in BOE for 35s.

59. Expose to ultraviolet induced ozone (UVO) for 5min.

60. Deposit PECVD SiO<sub>2</sub> 150nm.

61. Treat with HMDS for 1.5min.

62. Pattern PR (PI isolation).

63. Etch PECVD oxide by RIE (50mTorr, 40:1.2sccm CF<sub>4</sub>:O<sub>2</sub>, 150W, 8.5min).

64. Remove PR by acetone.

65. Etch PI by RIE (150mTorr, 20sccm O<sub>2</sub>, 150W, 40min).

**Method for Transferring Device Array and Completing Camera**

In general, the transfer procedure followed methods reported previously (2). Fig. S2 illustrates each step. For transfer, we manually controlled the speed of releasing the flat PDMS stamp at each stage. The device array is first lifted onto a flat PDMS stamp, by fast retraction from the fabricated silicon source substrate. (~0.1sec) Then, the device array is transferred to a thin PDMS membrane. In this case, the flat PDMS stamp is slowly removed (~10sec). The transfer process is mostly successful owing to higher bonding force between

silicon surface (device bottom) and PDMS than the force between polyimide (device top) and PDMS. (3) To ensure perfect transfer, the target PDMS substrate is treated with ultraviolet induced ozone and baked at 70°C. Detailed procedures are as follows.

*Transfer scheme for silicon photodetector array*

1. Etch oxide layer of SOI wafer in HF for 30min.
2. Rinse the processed wafer with DI water for 10min (carefully).
3. Clean device perimeter using scotch tapes.
4. Pick up photodetector array using a flat PDMS (Sylgard 184, Dow Corning) stamp.
5. Expose ultraviolet induced ozone (UVO) to a target substrate (thin PDMS) for 2.5min.
6. Stamp to a target substrate (don't release PDMS stamp).
7. Post-bake at 70°C for 10min.
8. Release PDMS stamp (slowly ~ 10sec).

**Method for Tuning the Lens and the Detector Surface Geometry**

Fig. S3A shows a fabricated silicon-based photodetector array before transfer and Fig. S3B shows the transferred device array on a circular PDMS membrane. This PDMS membrane served as a substrate and also as a component for sealing the pneumatic tuning system. This system consists of several components, shown in Fig. S4A. To ensure perfect sealing, the PDMS membrane is squeezed by the upper and the lower covers. Although the system is effectively sealed by this design, the membrane is significantly deformed by compression. As a result, additional components were designed to stretch the deformed membrane, to ensure a flat surface. This element resulted in 2~3% of pre-strain ( $\epsilon_0$ ). The opening hole element is used to control the size and shape of deformation. Fig. S4B shows the assembled device array with the pneumatic tuning system. This assembly is connected with the fluidic chamber (the lowest part in Fig. S4A). This fluidic chamber has two liquid input/output ports. As in Fig. S5A, these ports are connected to plastic tubing and to either a stop cock or a custom made syringe. These ports are used not only for applying pressure but also for releasing air/bubble entrapped in the system. The stop-cock is closed after air/bubble is released. For tunable fluidic lens, we used a liquid-core solid-cladding lens geometry(4-7) due its simplicity over liquid-core liquid-cladding designs(8-11). Fig. S5C, D show the tunable lens. As in this case with the tunable detector, the tunable lens also incorporates a deformable PDMS membrane. This membrane is squeezed to ensure sealing. In this case, a

pre-straining element is not included in the design, partly because the the membrane surface is deformed in its initial state. To measure the pressure inside of the tunable lens and the tunable detector system, a pressure gauge is connected through a *t*-connector. Several pressure gauges are used depending on range of pressure inside of systems. (diaphragm gauges 0 ~ 3 psi, 0 ~ 10 psi, Noshok, differential gauge 0 ~ 20 psi, Orange Research). Detailed step-by step procedures for completing the tunable detector system are as follows.

#### *Procedures for completing the tunable detector*

1. Open electrodes covering with PDMS by RIE (150mTorr, 20sccm O<sub>2</sub>, 150W, 1h).
2. Cut PDMS membrane with device through a cutting pad.
3. Install PDMS membrane to the fluidic deformation system.
4. Assemble and align the metal electrodes pin array and install onto the plastic board.
5. Assemble fluidic chamber and connect in/outlet tubes with a stop cock.
6. Insert distilled water into the system using a syringe.
7. Remove bubbles from the system and close the stop cock.

#### **Method for Establishing Electrical Connection and Device Yield**

Establishing electrical connection between the device array and the external data acquisition system was a significant challenge for completing a working camera. In previous, static hemispherical camera designs, metal layers deposited through elastomeric shadow masks(1) or patterns of silver epoxy connected electrodes of the device array to those on a printed computer board(12, 13). However, these methods could not be applied to the tunable system due to significant deformation of PDMS substrate, particularly due to stress concentrations at the edges. A special fixture system which can make electrical contact with device on a flexible substrate by mechanical pressing was designed. Fig. S6A shows bottom-up view of the hardware which consists of 32 copper pin electrodes. These pins are designed to press against electrodes of device array using cantilever springs. (Fig. S6B, E) To reduce the contact resistance, the surfaces of electrode pins are polished and coated with metal layers (Cr/Au, 20nm/400nm). Fig. S6C, D show these 32 pins aligned and in contact with device electrodes. The inset shows more clearly that these electrode pins press against electrodes of device array. This hardware also stretches the membrane slightly to form a perfect flat surface. Fig. S6E shows that electrical wires are attached to electrode pins for further interface with the LABVIEW data acquisition system (1). This electrical connection

hardware made successful electrical contact over entire 32 electrodes. Fig. S7 shows a test imaging result from the tunable detector imaging system using this electrical contact hardware. The result reveals that electrical contact is successfully made over all electrodes. (100% contact yields) However, it is observed that 11 pixels out of 256 pixels (95% pixel yields) are not working properly. In these cases, overscanning was used to eliminate the effects of defective pixel elements.

### **Determination of the Lens and the Detector Surface Geometry**

At several states of deformation, three dimensional geometries of the deformed surfaces were determined by 3D laser scanner. (Next Engine, The Imaging Technology Group, Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) Fig. S8A shows this 3D laser scanning tool configured for measuring geometry of detector surface. Fig. S8B, C are close-up views of the tunable detector and the tunable lens which are being scanned. Fig. S9A shows three dimensional rendering of raw data of a deformed surface of the tunable lens. To determine the radius of curvature and the apex height of deformed surface, a MATLAB code is used. Fig. S9B shows the center profile at several states of deformations. Although the lens profile around the apex fitted well with a circle, the total profile not perfectly matched with a circle. This is due to the deformation of PDMS membrane after initial installation, induced by squeezing. As a result, the radius of curvature is determined differently depending on the range of data for fitting. (Fig. S9B, C) However, the radius of curvature fitted from a partial range is used as the parameter of the lens, because the calculated focal distance agreed with the real measurement when this value is used as a parameter for ray-tracing calculation.

The geometry of detector surface can be determined similarly. Fig. S10A shows raw data from the deformed detector surface. Whereas lens surfaces can be fitted to a circle around the apex, detector surfaces are fitted with a circle over entire deformed surface. (See Fig. 2C in the main text.) This is due to the pre-straining element which is designed to stretch the PDMS membrane after installation. (See Fig. S4A.) To determine the pixel position, a top-down view of device array obtained at the same deformation state is used. From this picture,  $x$ ,  $y$  pixel positions are determined using AutoCad. Then, the height information is obtained by projecting onto the deformed surface (Fig. S10B). Fig. S10D shows determined pixel positions overdrawn on the projected top-down view. Determined positions also match with the analytically calculated positions. (Fig. S10E)

## Mechanics of the Tunable Lens

The PDMS membrane of thickness  $t=0.2$  mm in the tunable lens is confined by an open hole (of diameter  $D=9$  mm) on a water chamber. Water injection into the chamber induces a pressure difference  $p$  between the two surfaces of PDMS, which deforms the PDMS membrane to a large strain ( $>40\%$ ). Since PDMS is nearly incompressible and displays nonlinear material behavior under large strain (14), it can be represented by the Yeoh hyperelastic material model with the elastic energy density function given by (15)

$$U = \sum_{n=1}^3 C_n (I_1 - 3)^n, \quad [1]$$

where  $C_n$  are material constants,  $I_1 = \lambda_1^2 + \lambda_2^2 + \lambda_3^2$  is the first invariant of the left Cauchy-Green deformation tensor, and  $\lambda_i$  are the principal stretches which satisfy  $\lambda_1 \lambda_2 \lambda_3 = 1$  due to incompressibility.

For uniaxial tension,  $\lambda_1 = 1 + \varepsilon = \lambda$ , which gives  $\lambda_2 = \lambda_3 = 1/\sqrt{\lambda}$ ,  $I_1 = \lambda^2 + 2/\lambda$ , and stress

$$\sigma = 2 \left( \lambda^2 - \frac{1}{\lambda} \right) \left[ C_1 + 2C_2 (I_1 - 3) + 3C_3 (I_1 - 3)^2 \right]. \quad [2]$$

For PDMS (sylgard 184), the uniaxial tensile stress-strain data (14) give

$$C_1 = 0.285 \text{ MPa}, \quad C_2 = 0.015 \text{ MPa}, \quad C_3 = 0.019 \text{ MPa}. \quad [3]$$

The shape of the lens after water injection depends on its deflection.

(1) For  $H \leq D/2$ , the lens deforms to a spherical cap, as shown in Fig. S11A. The spherical radius and polar angle are

$$R = \frac{D^2 + 4H^2}{8H}, \quad \varphi_{\max} = \sin^{-1} \frac{D}{2R} \quad [4]$$

For a point initially at  $(r, \theta, 0)$  in cylindrical coordinates, its polar angle on the deformed surface is  $\varphi = \frac{2r}{D} \varphi_{\max}$ . The principle stretches are

$$\lambda_1 = \frac{2R\varphi_{\max}}{D}, \quad \lambda_2 = \frac{R \sin \varphi}{r}, \quad \lambda_3 = \frac{1}{\lambda_1 \lambda_2} = \frac{Dr}{2R^2 \varphi_{\max} \sin \varphi}. \quad [5]$$

The elastic strain energy is obtained as

$$U_e = 2\pi t \int_0^{D/2} \sum_{n=1}^3 C_n (I_1 - 3)^n r dr. \quad [6]$$

The work done by the pressure is

$$W = pV = \frac{\pi}{3} p H^2 (3R - H), \quad [7]$$

where  $V = \pi H^2 (3R - H)/3$  is the volume of the spherical cap.

(2) For  $H > D/2$ , the spherical cap becomes a full hemisphere of radius  $\frac{D}{2}$  and polar angle  $\frac{\pi}{2}$ , i.e.,

$$R = \frac{D}{2}, \quad \varphi_{\max} = \frac{\pi}{2}. \quad [8]$$

The deformed surface is composed of the hemisphere and a cylinder of height  $h_c = H - D/2$  that is in contact with the vertical surface of the hole, as shown in Fig. S11B. Neglecting the friction between the PDMS and the vertical surface of the hole gives the uniform axial strain in the cylindrical part of PDMS, which also equals to the meridional strain in the hemisphere. Therefore the point separating the hemispherical and cylindrical parts has the radial coordinate

$$r_0 = \frac{\pi D^2}{2(\pi - 2)D + 8H} \quad [9]$$

in the initial cylindrical coordinates  $(r, \theta, 0)$ . The corresponding polar angle of the point is

$\varphi = \frac{\pi r}{2r_0}$ . The principle stretches for  $r \leq r_0$  are

$$\lambda_1^{\text{sphere}} = \frac{(\pi - 2)D + 4H}{2D}, \quad \lambda_2^{\text{sphere}} = \frac{D \sin \varphi}{2r}, \quad \lambda_3^{\text{sphere}} = \frac{4r}{[(\pi - 2)D + 4H] \sin \varphi}. \quad [10]$$

The principle stretches for  $r \geq r_0$  are

$$\lambda_1^{\text{contact}} = \frac{(\pi - 2)D + 4H}{2D}, \quad \lambda_2^{\text{contact}} = \frac{D}{2r}, \quad \lambda_3^{\text{contact}} = \frac{4r}{(\pi - 2)D + 4H}. \quad [11]$$

The elastic strain energy is obtained as

$$U_e = 2\pi t \int_0^{r_0} \sum_{n=1}^3 C_n (I_1^{\text{sphere}} - 3)^n r dr + 2\pi t \int_{r_0}^{D/2} \sum_{n=1}^3 C_n (I_1^{\text{contact}} - 3)^n r dr. \quad [12]$$

The work done by the pressure is

$$W = pV = \frac{1}{24} \pi D^2 (6H - D) p, \quad [13]$$

where  $V = \frac{1}{24} \pi D^2 (6H - D)$  is the volume enveloped by the deformed PDMS.

The principle of minimum potential energy gives

$$p = \frac{\partial U_e / \partial H}{\partial V / \partial H}. \quad [14]$$

This gives analytically the relation between the pressure  $p$  and maximum deflection  $H$ .

## Mechanics of the Tunable Photodetector Surface

As shown in Fig. S12, a flat PDMS membrane (of Young's modulus  $E$  and Poisson's ratio  $\nu$ ) with a square array of photodetectors on its top surface is installed on a water chamber. The open hole (of diameter  $D$ ) at the top of the chamber confines the deformation of PDMS membrane during water extraction. The photodetector has a square shape of size  $l_{pd}=0.5$  mm, and the spacing between adjacent photodetectors is  $l_{spacing}=0.42$  mm. The area fraction of photodetectors is  $f = l_{pd}^2 / (l_{pd} + l_{spacing})^2$ . The position of each photodetector on the flat PDMS is expressed in cylindrical coordinates as  $(r, \theta, z=0)$ , as shown in Fig. S13A. The PDMS membrane deforms to a spherical cap of height  $H$  as water is extracted from the chamber (Fig. S13B). The radius of curvature is  $R = \frac{D^2 + 4H^2}{8H}$ , and polar angle

$\varphi_{max} = \sin^{-1} \frac{4DH}{D^2 + 4H^2}$  (Fig. S13B). The hemispherical profile can be expressed analytically in the cylindrical coordinates as  $r^2 + (z - R + H)^2 = R^2$ , or equivalently

$$r^2 + z^2 - \left( \frac{D^2}{4H} - H \right) z - \frac{D^2}{4} = 0.$$

Finite element analysis (FEA) is also used to study the deformation of PDMS membrane and to track the positions of photodetectors during water extraction. Since its deformation is negligible, the water chamber is modeled as a rigid part and is fixed during the simulation. The PDMS membrane (thickness 0.5 mm, Young's modulus 2 MPa and Poisson's ratio 0.48) is clamped on the water chamber, and is modeled by continuum shell elements SC8R in the ABAQUS finite element program, since its thickness is much larger than photodetectors. Each photodetector is composed of polyimide (thickness 2.4  $\mu\text{m}$ , Young's modulus 2.5 GPa and Poisson's ratio 0.34) and Si (thickness 1.2  $\mu\text{m}$ , Young's modulus 130 GPa and Poisson's ratio 0.27), and is modeled by (composite) shell elements S4R, since it's very thin and has a multilayer structure. Uniform pressure is applied on the PDMS surface to simulate its deformation due to water extraction.

Figure S14A shows that the hemispherical profile  $r^2 + z^2 - \left(\frac{D^2}{4H} - H\right)z - \frac{D^2}{4} = 0$

agrees very well with the experimentally measured profile and that obtained by FEM without any parameter fitting. This validates the analytical model, and confirms that the PDMS membrane indeed deforms into a hemispherical shape.

The hemispherical shape implies that the meridional strain in the PDMS membrane is uniform. Since the radius  $D/2$  of the PDMS membrane on the open hole is stretched to the arc length  $R\varphi_{\max}$ , the photodetector initially at  $(r, \theta, 0)$  in cylindrical coordinates has the spherical angle  $\varphi = \frac{2r}{D}\varphi_{\max}$  on the hemisphere (Fig. S13B). The cylindrical coordinates of the photodetector after deformation are  $(R \sin \varphi, \theta, R - H - R \cos \varphi)$ , or equivalently,

$$\left[ \frac{D^2 + 4H^2}{8H} \sin\left(\frac{2r}{D} \sin^{-1} \frac{4DH}{D^2 + 4H^2}\right), \theta, \frac{D^2 - 4H^2}{8H} - \frac{D^2 + 4H^2}{8H} \cos\left(\frac{2r}{D} \sin^{-1} \frac{4DH}{D^2 + 4H^2}\right) \right].$$

As shown in Figs. S14B and S14C, the above analytical expression for photodetector position agrees very well with the experiment and FEM without any parameter fitting. This provides further validation of the analytical model. The calculated circumferential and meridional strains in PDMS membrane are shown in Fig. S15A, S15B, respectively.

The deflection  $H$  can be obtained in terms of pressure  $p$ , using the same method as in the previous section. Linear elasticity is used due to small deformation of photodetector surface. Since silicon is several orders of magnitude more rigid than PDMS, the deformation of PDMS underneath photodetector is negligible. Therefore the circumferential

strain and meridional strain are obtained as  $\varepsilon_\varphi = \frac{2R\varphi_{\max} - D}{D\sqrt{1-f}}$  and  $\varepsilon_\theta = \frac{R \sin \varphi - r}{r\sqrt{1-f}}$ . The

elastic strain energy is

$$U_e = \frac{\pi t E}{1-\nu^2} \int_0^{D/2} (\varepsilon_\varphi^2 + \varepsilon_\theta^2 + 2\nu\varepsilon_\varphi\varepsilon_\theta)(1-f)rdr. \quad [15]$$

The work done by the pressure is given by Eqs. 7. Then pressure  $p$  is given in terms of deflection  $H$  by Eqs. 14, or equivalently  $H=H(p)$ .

### **Raytracing calculation and preliminary test of the tunable lens**

Before the real imaging test with the tunable detector, the tunable lens is tested by both experiment and ray-tracing calculation. First, the tunable lens is qualitatively tested by viewing detector surface through the lens at several states of the lens deformations. As shown in the Fig. S16, field of view and magnification change according to deformation of lens surface. The properties of the lens are more quantitatively studied by ray tracing calculation. (Optical Bench)(16, 17) Rays originating from on an object plane, which is 67mm distant from the lens, pass through the lens and cross at points that define an imaging surface(13). By this method, the shape and the distance of detector surface can be determined at several states of lens deformation. (Fig. S17A) From this analysis, it is found out that the radius of curvature of lens surface is proportional to the distance and the radius of curvature of detector surface. (Fig. S17B, C) This prediction is validated by real testing at an optical bench. Fig. S18A shows setup for the real imaging experiment with the tunable lens and the tunable detector. Fig. S18B, C, D, E show formed image on a flat diffusive screen at four different states of the lens deformation. These images are taken by a commercial digital camera at the back side of diffusive screen. (EOS-1Ds Mark III, Canon) Dashed lines in red are showing the actual size of the tunable detector. These flat screen images are off-focused at the periphery, which is obvious at the lowest magnification. (Fig. S18B)

### **Imaging Result**

To demonstrate the operation of the tunable hemispherical imaging system, two types of imaging experiment are performed. One experiment shows focusing effects. In this experiment, a plano-convex lens (diameter of 9 mm and focal length of 22.8 mm, JML Optical Industries, Inc) is used. Fig. S19 show series of images at different deformation of detector surface placing in front of exact focal distance. As deformation of the detector become larger, the distance approaches the ideal focal distance, and images come into focus. Another experiment involves the tunable lens in the imaging. As already known from the preliminary study of the tunable lens, the focal distance and the radius of curvature of the detector surface depend on the geometry of the lens. At each state of lens deformation, the

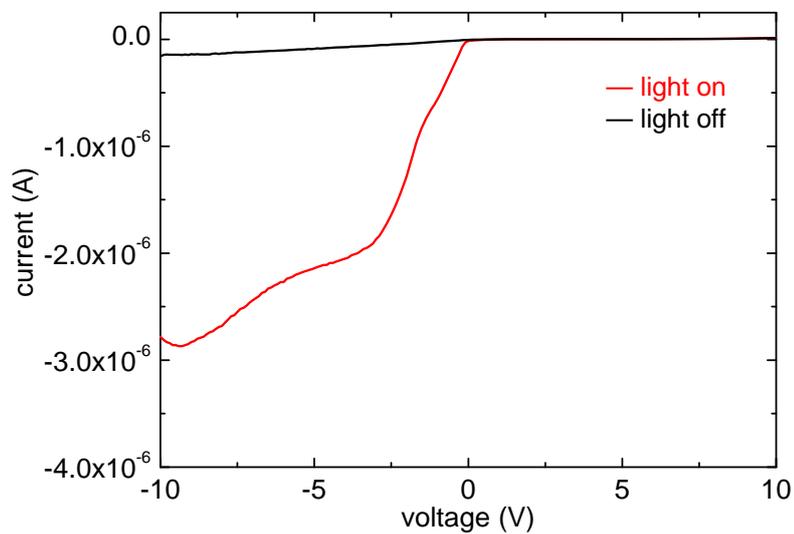
detector surface is deformed to match with the radius of curvature from ray-tracing calculation. As a result, acquired images at this setup show uniform focus and intensity distribution. (Fig. S20A, B, C, D) For comparison, acquired images in the flat state are shown. (Fig. S20E, F, G, H) The clearest differences between the images from curved surface and flat surface can be found at the lowest magnification images. (Fig. S20A, E) This advantage of curved screens over flat screens agrees with the previously reported result (1, 13). Fig. S21 shown I-logo imaged at two different magnification states. The right image shows three times higher optical magnification than the left image.

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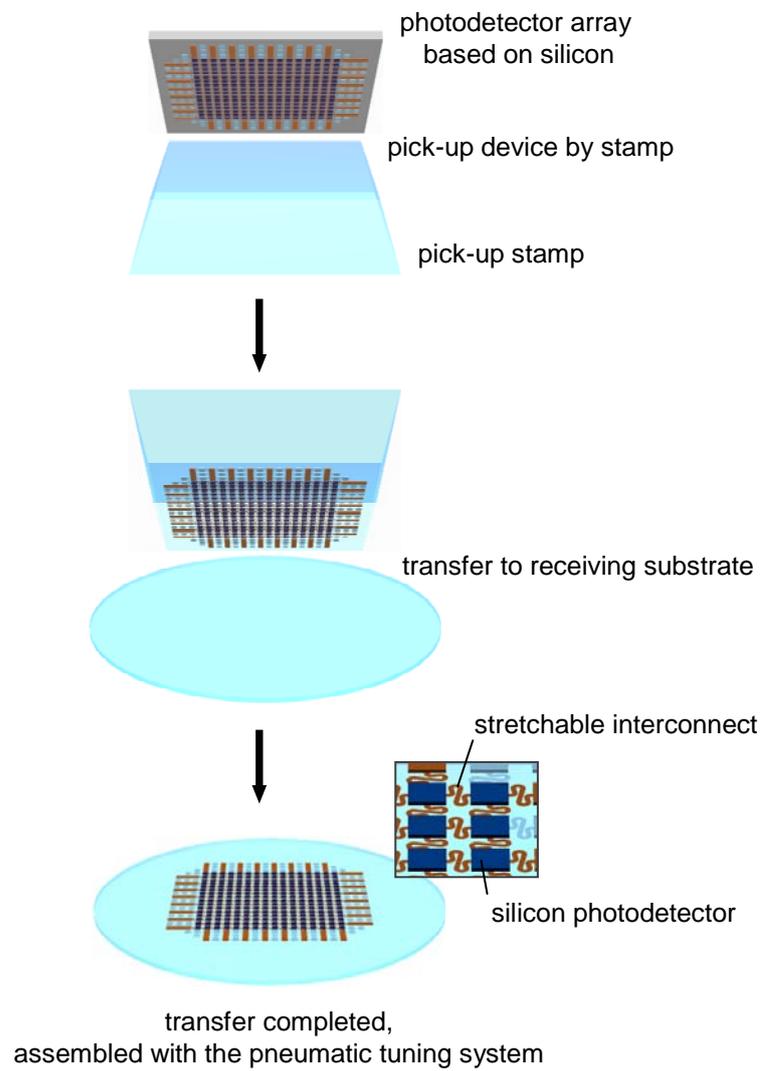
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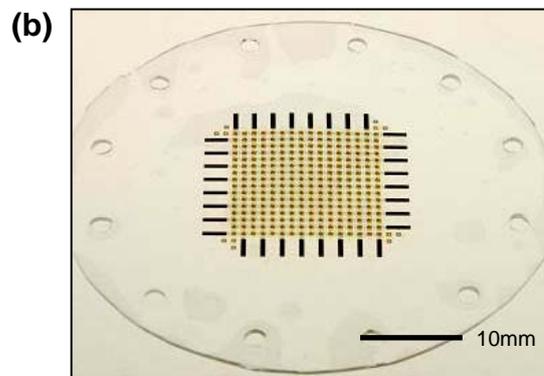
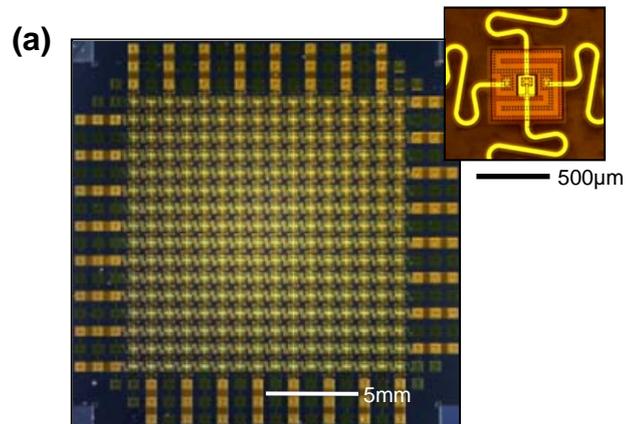
## Supplementary Figures and Legends



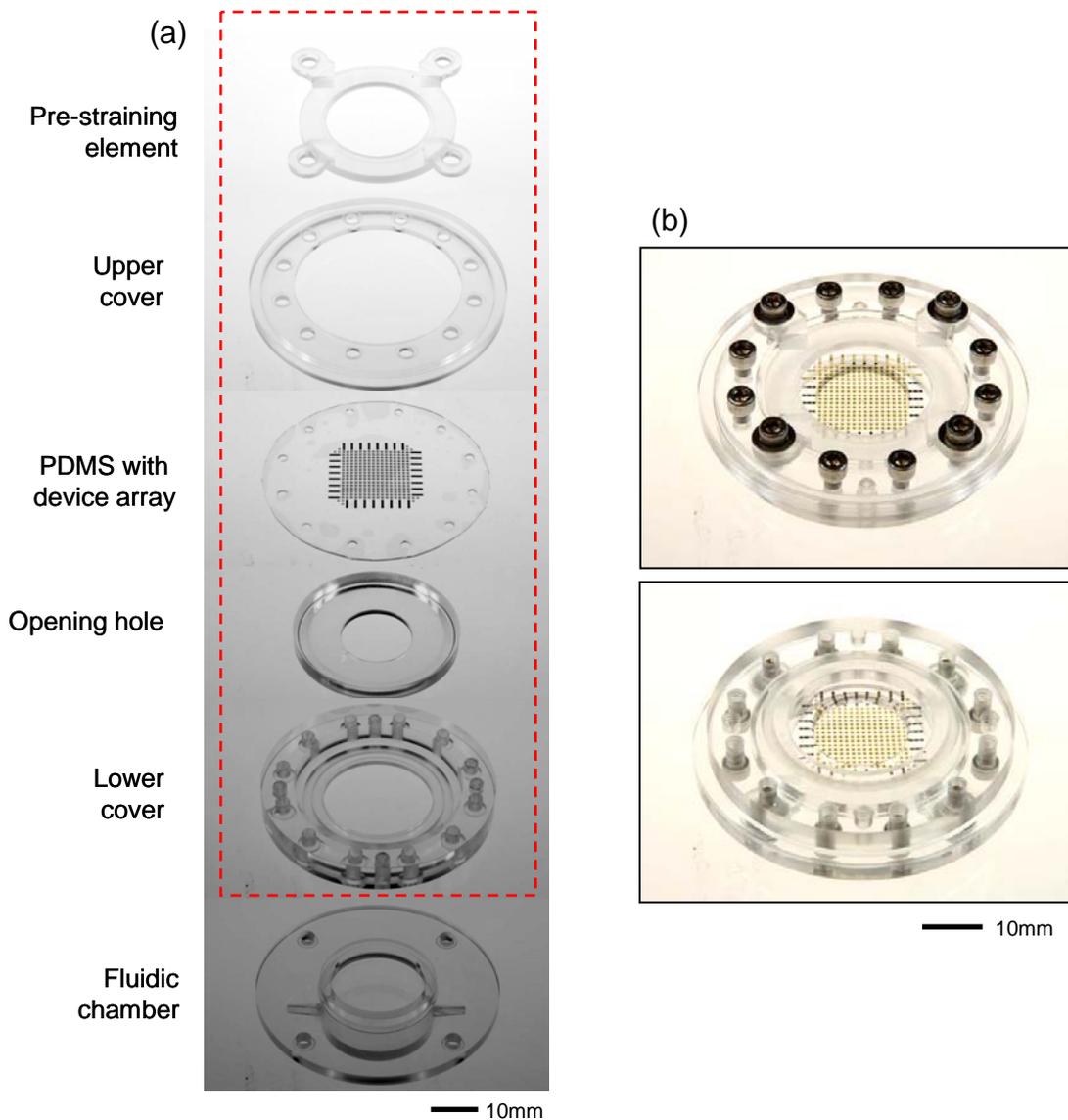
**Fig. S1.** Representative current-voltage response of a pixel at the center of the array, with a light source on (red) and off (black).



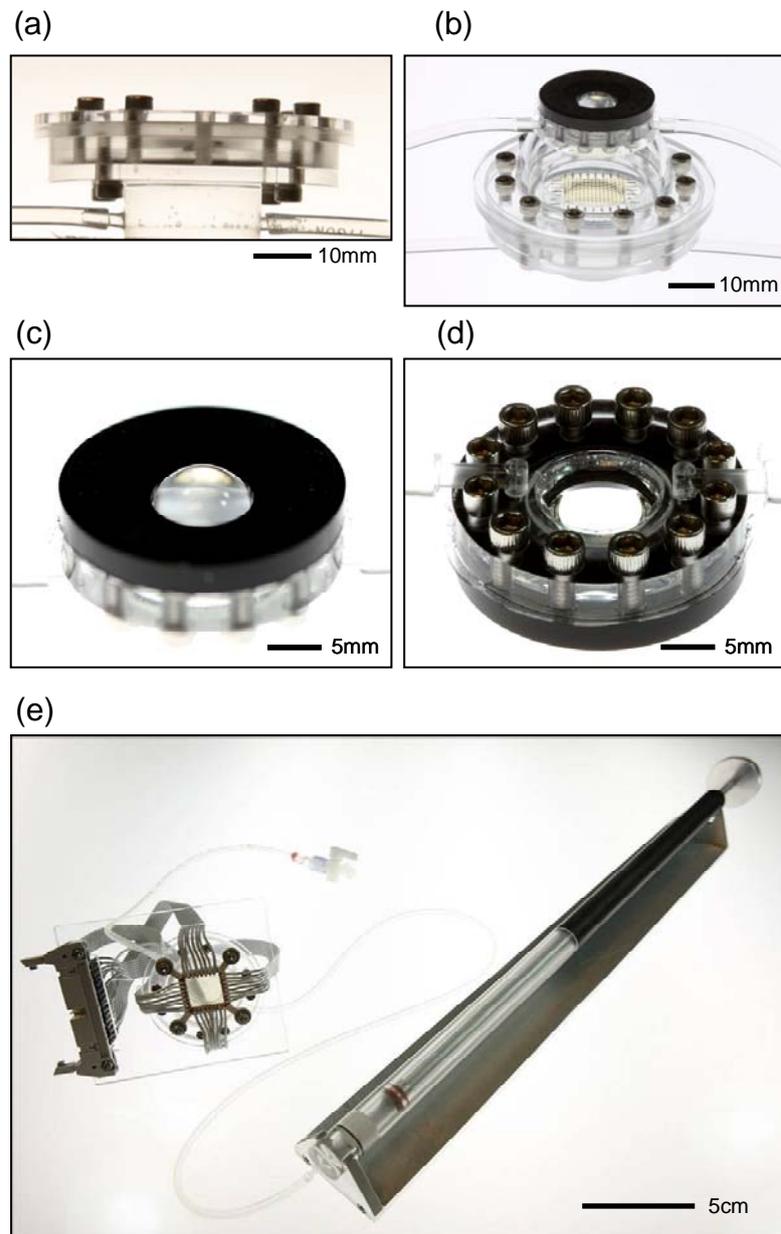
**Fig. S2.** Schematic illustration of steps for transferring photodetectors array onto PDMS membrane substrate.



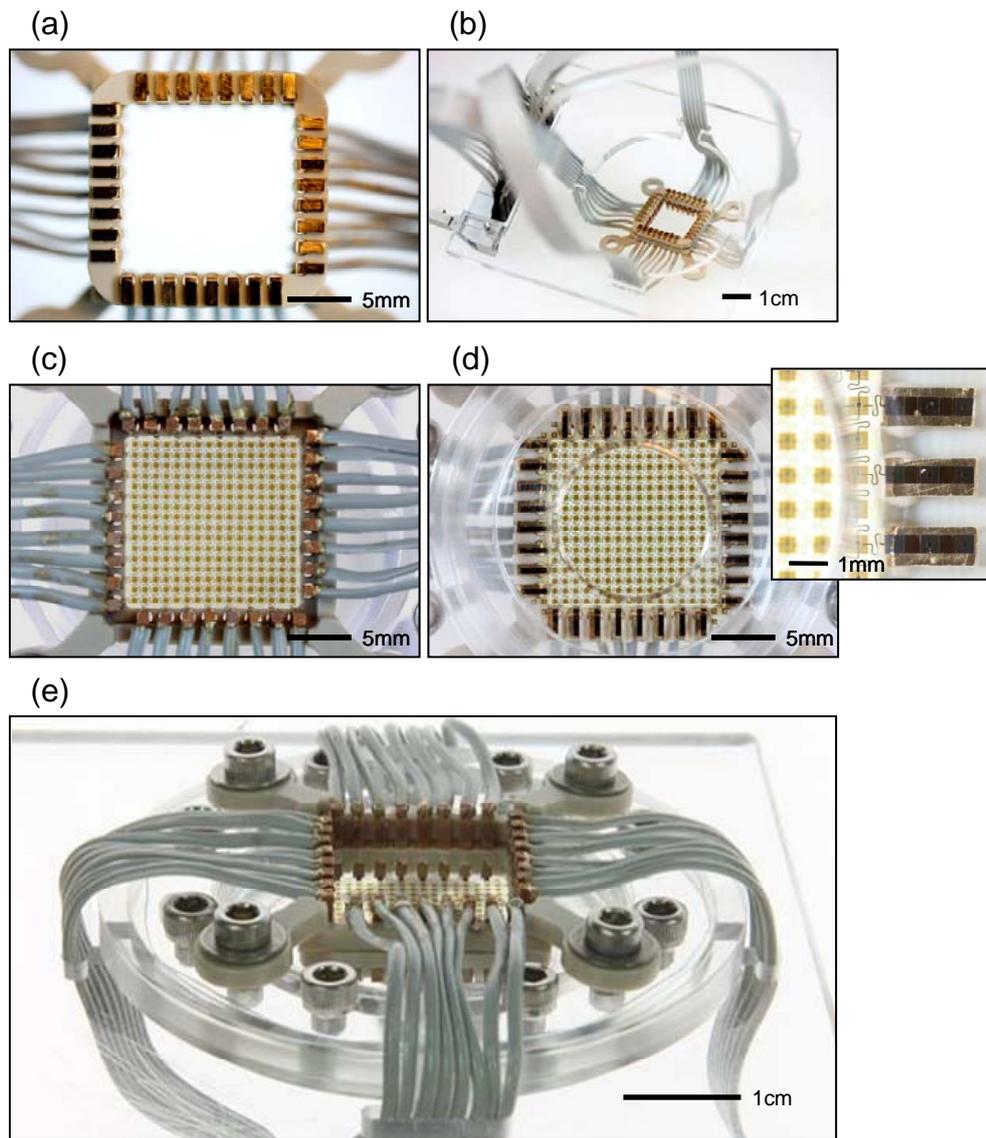
**Fig. S3.** (a) Photograph of a photodetector/diode array before transfer on a planar surface. Optical microscope image of single photodetector (inset). (b) Transferred photodetector array on PDMS membrane substrate.



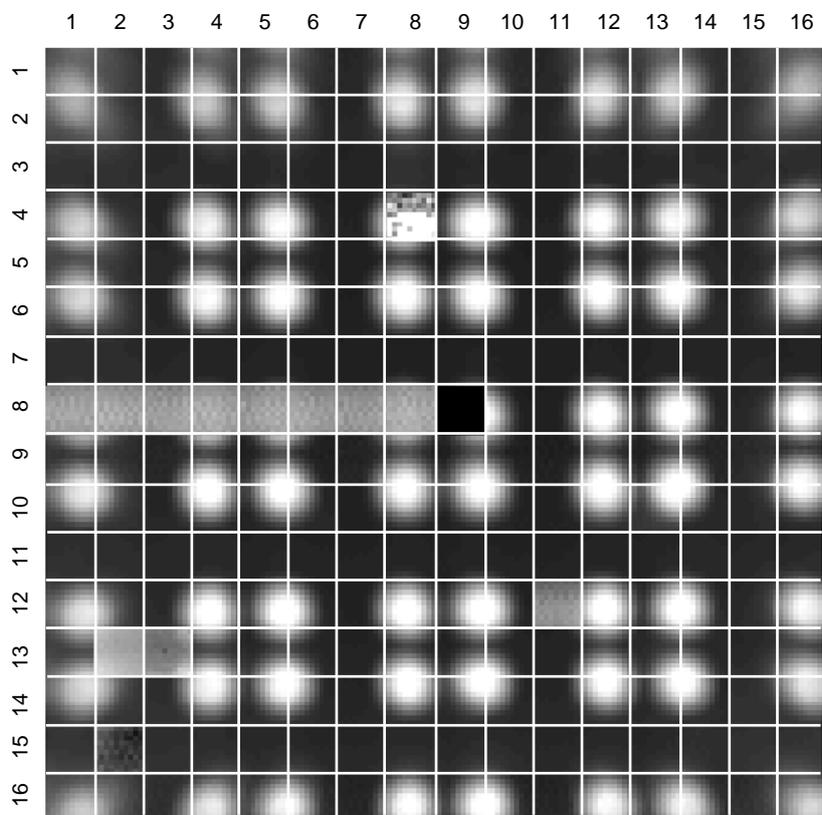
**Fig. S4.** (a) Photograph of elements for completing the fluidic deformation system. (b) Top down view of the cover assembly for the fluidic deformation system, which is composed of components in the dashed rectangle in the left figure (upper), bottom up view of the cover assembly (lower).



**Fig. S5.** (a) The side view of the tunable detector which connected with in/out tubes. (b) Photograph a built system with the tunable lens placing above the tunable detector. (c) The top-down view of the tunable lens. (d) The bottom-up view of the tunable lens. (e) The completed camera connected to a custom made syringe.



**Fig. S6.** (a) Photograph of contacting electrodes pin assembly before surface polishing and metal layer deposition (b) Photograph of the mounting board with electrodes pin array assembled (c) The top down photograph of electrodes pin array installed on a photodetector/diode array (d) The bottom up view of electrodes pin array installed on a photodetector/diode array, close-up view of the area where electrode pins are pressing electrodes of device array (inset). (e) A tilted view of the pressing bar element which has four cantilever springs at the corner.

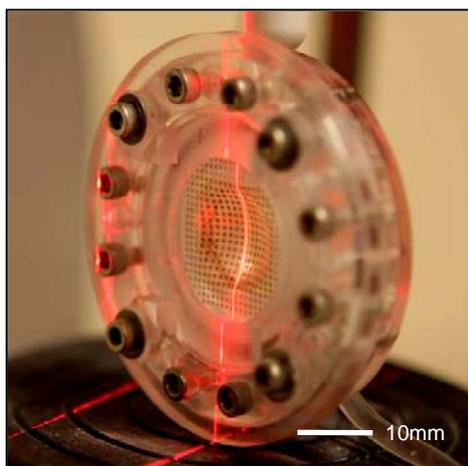


**Fig. S7.** Device yield of working camera used in the imaging experiments. In this experiment, a plano-convex lens (diameter of 9 mm and focal length of 22.8 mm, JML Optical Industries, Inc) is used.

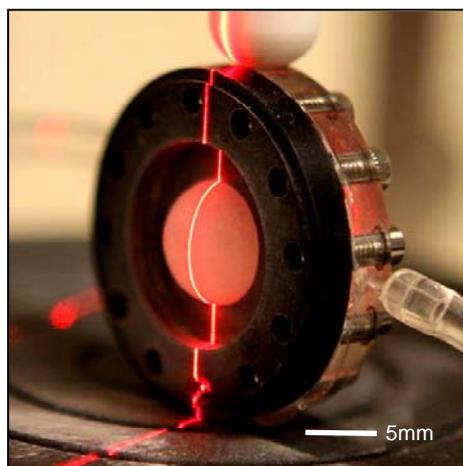
(a)



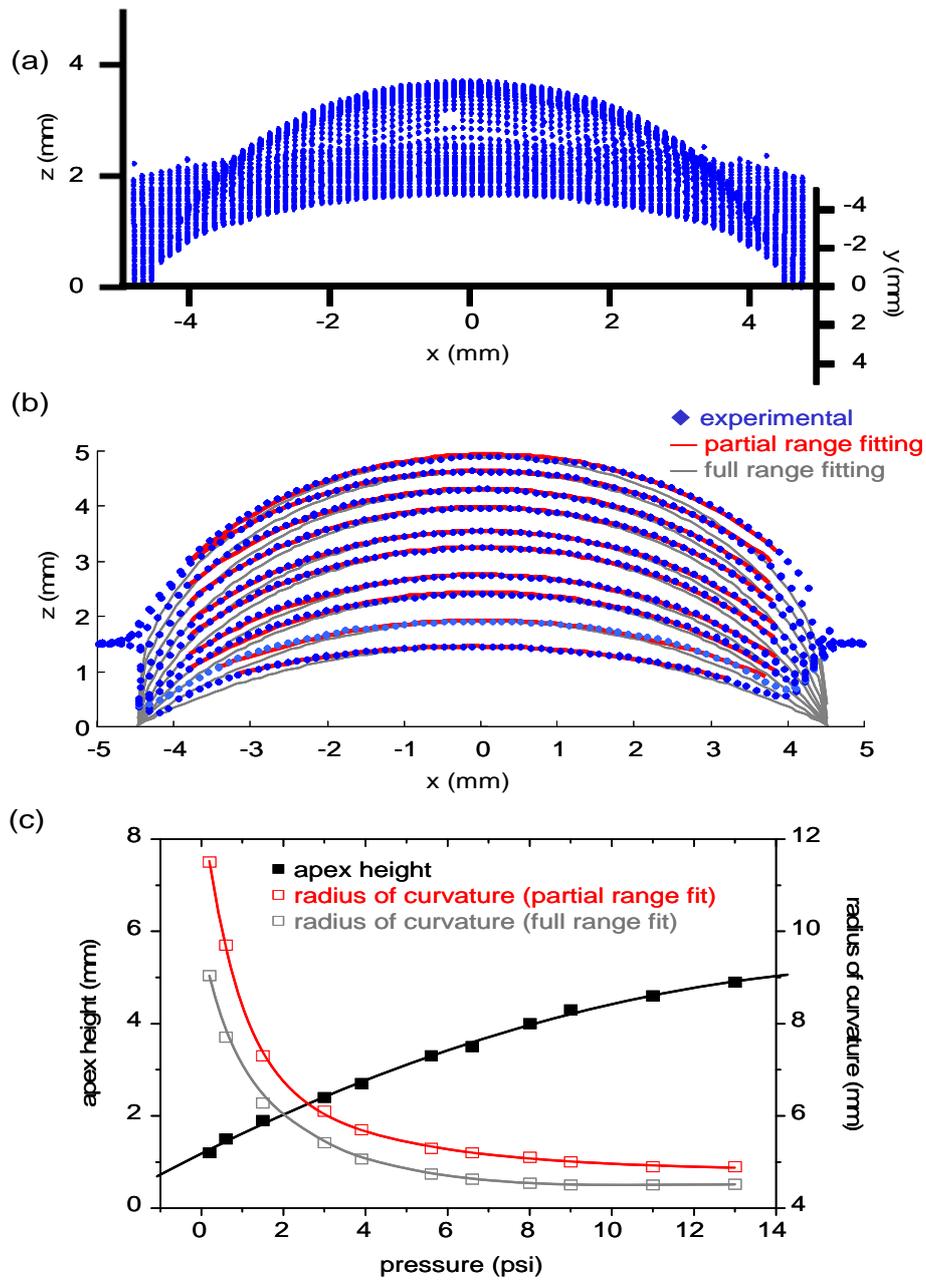
(b)



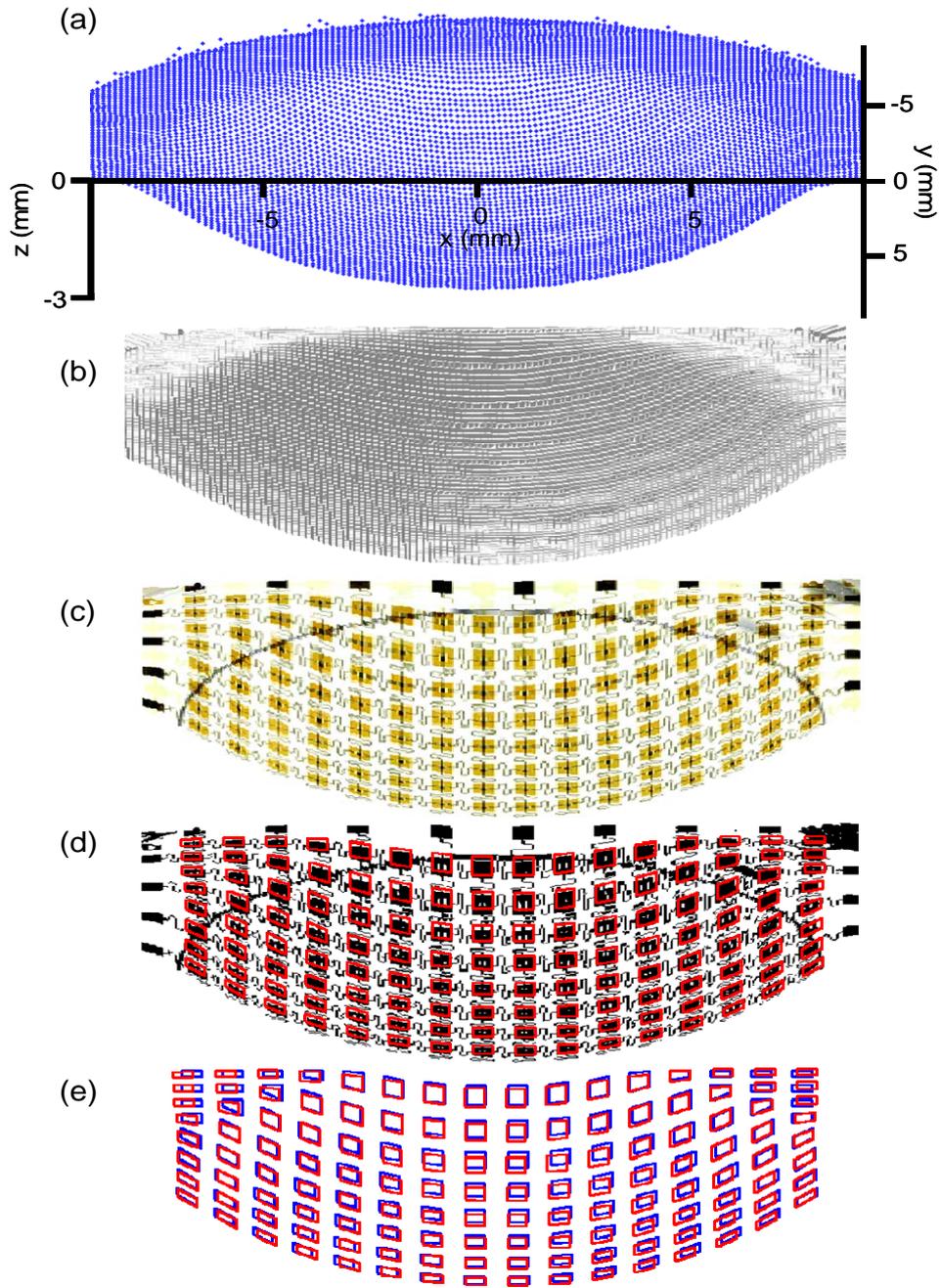
(c)



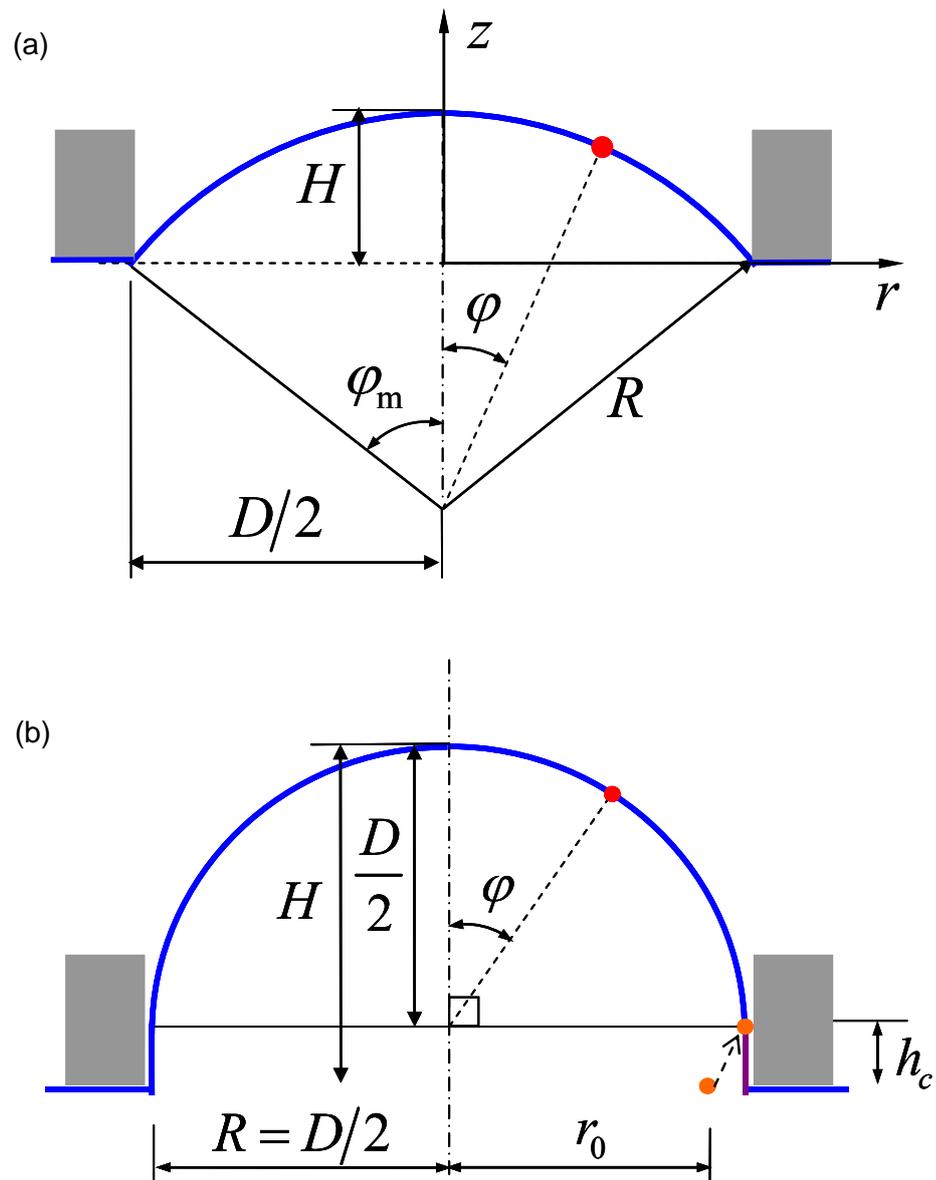
**Fig. S8.** (a) The 3D laser scanning system for measuring surface profile. (b) The tunable detector is being scanned. (c) The tunable lens is being scanned.



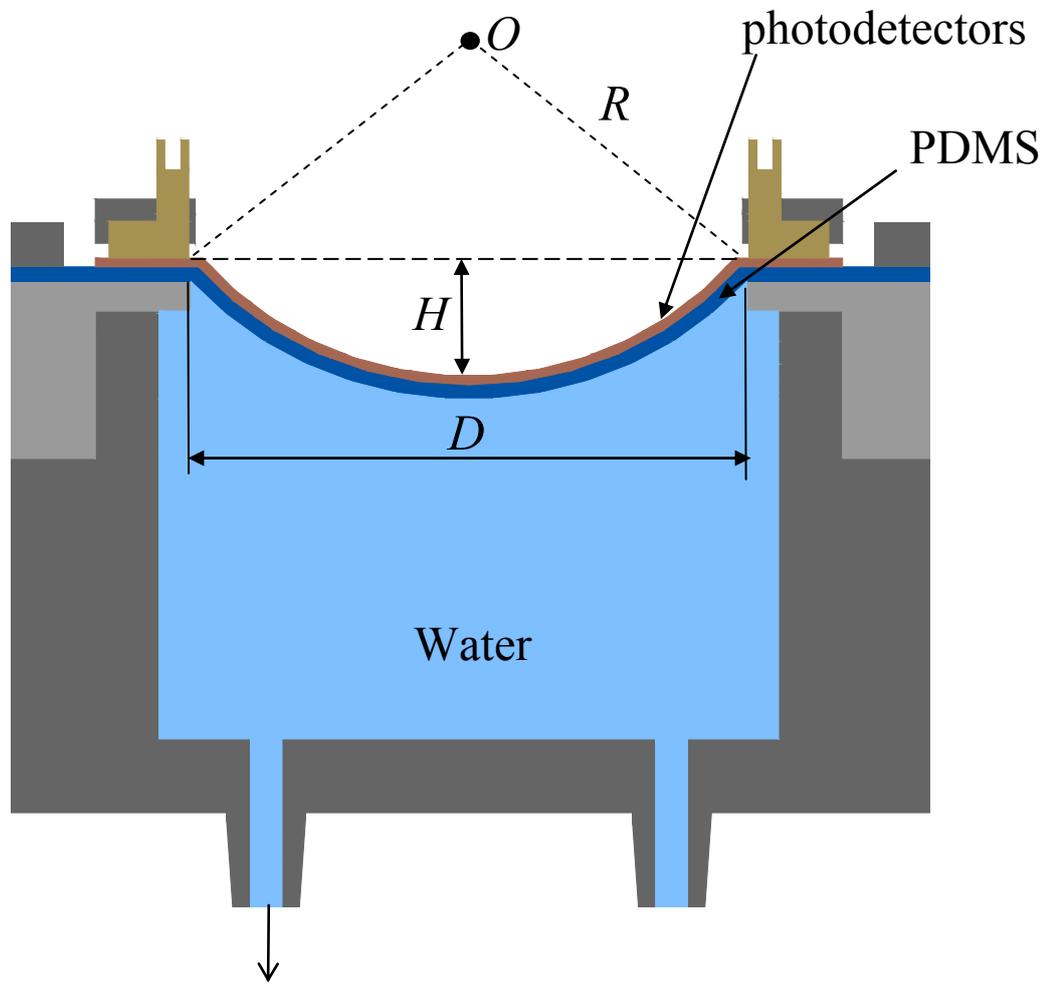
**Fig. S9.** (a) Raw point data of deformed lens surface acquired by 3D scanner. (b) Measured profiles and fitted curves of lens surface at various states of deformation. (c) The apex height and the radius of curvature along the pressure change.



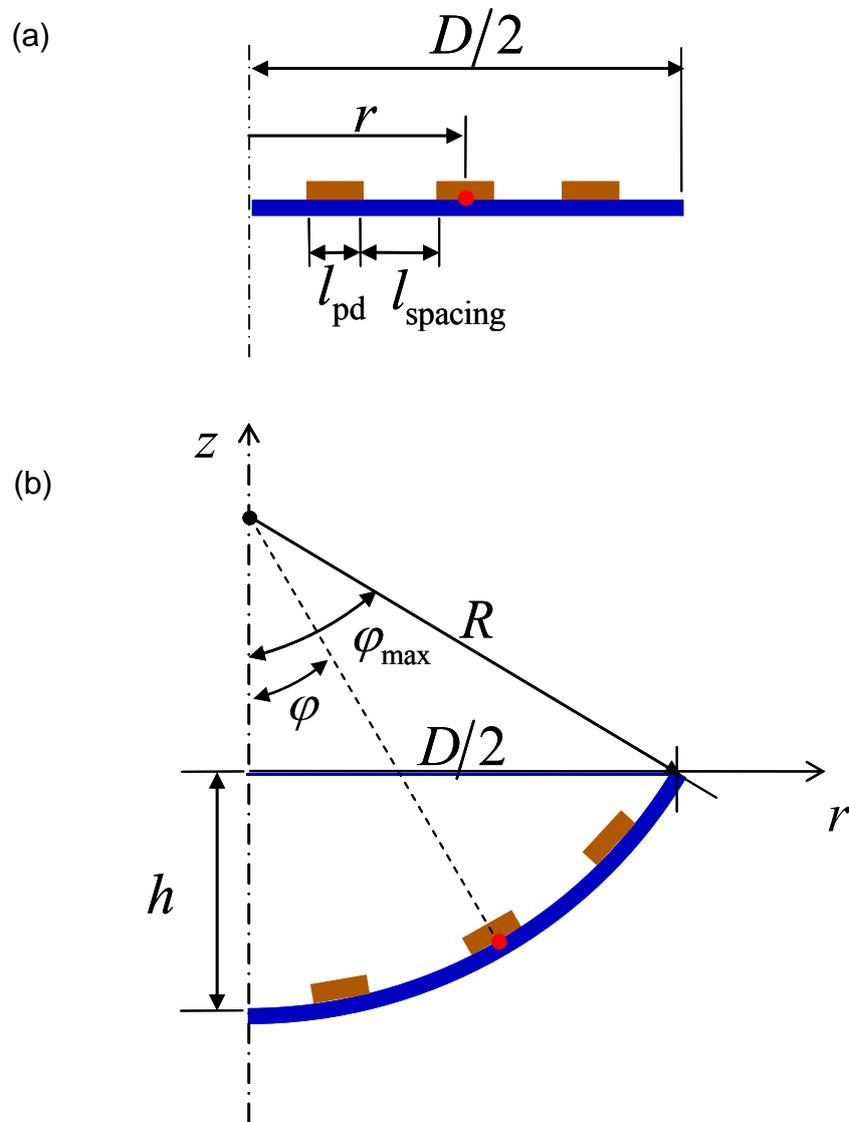
**Fig. S10.** Measurement scheme of pixel position: (a) Raw point data of deformed detector surface acquired by 3D scanner. (b) Generated surface by raw data. (c) Top-down view of device array projected on the generated surface. (d) Measured pixel position (red square) is overlapped on the detector surface. (e) Analytically calculated position (blue square) is overlapped on measured position (red square).



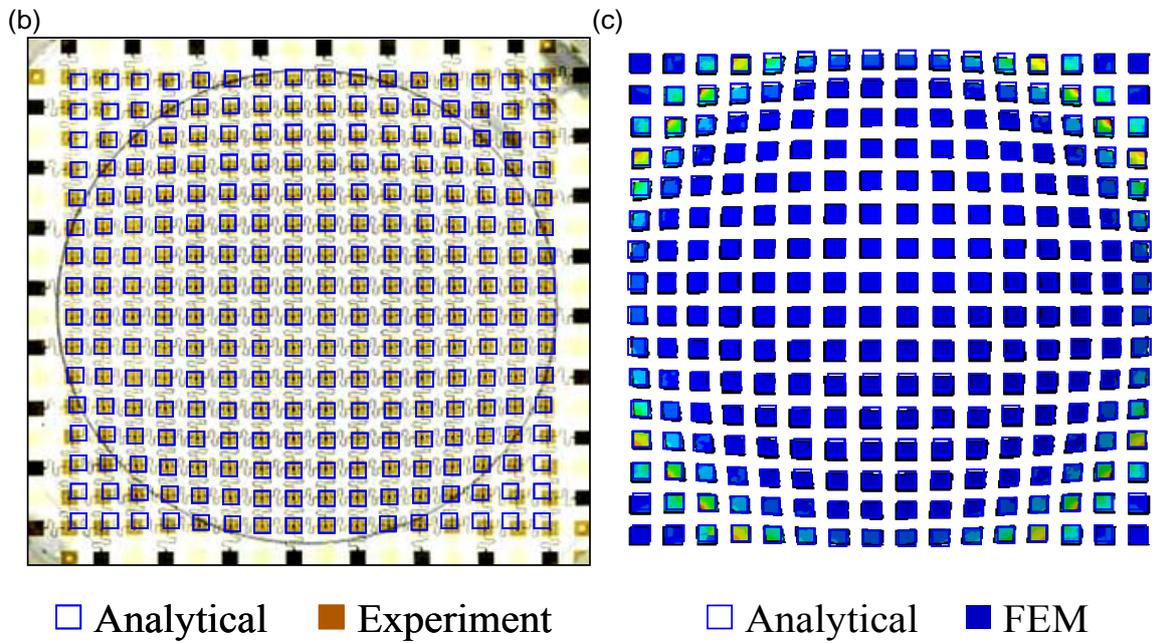
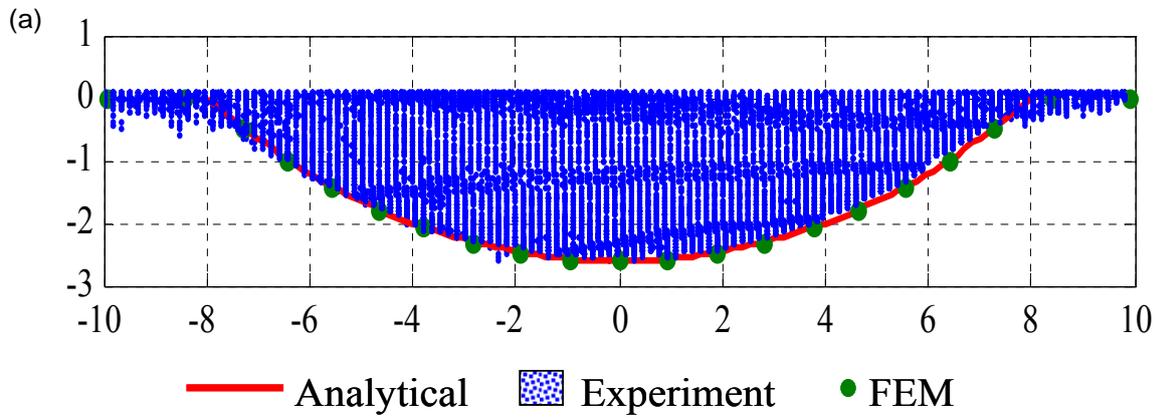
**Fig. S11.** (a) The lens deforms to be a spherical cap for deflection  $H \leq D/2$ . (b) For deflection  $H > D/2$ , the lens surface has contact with the sidewall of the top plate. Its deformed shape consists of a full hemisphere and a short cylinder.



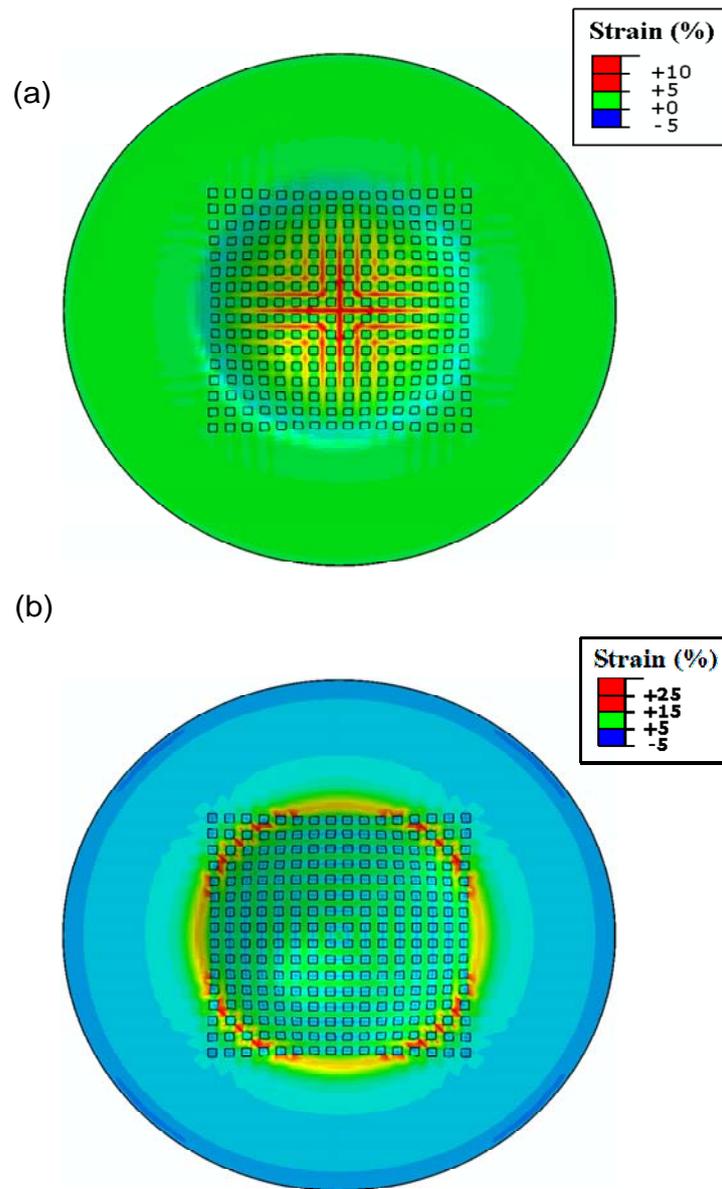
**Fig. S12.** (a) Schematic illustration of the deformation of photodetector surface due to water extraction.



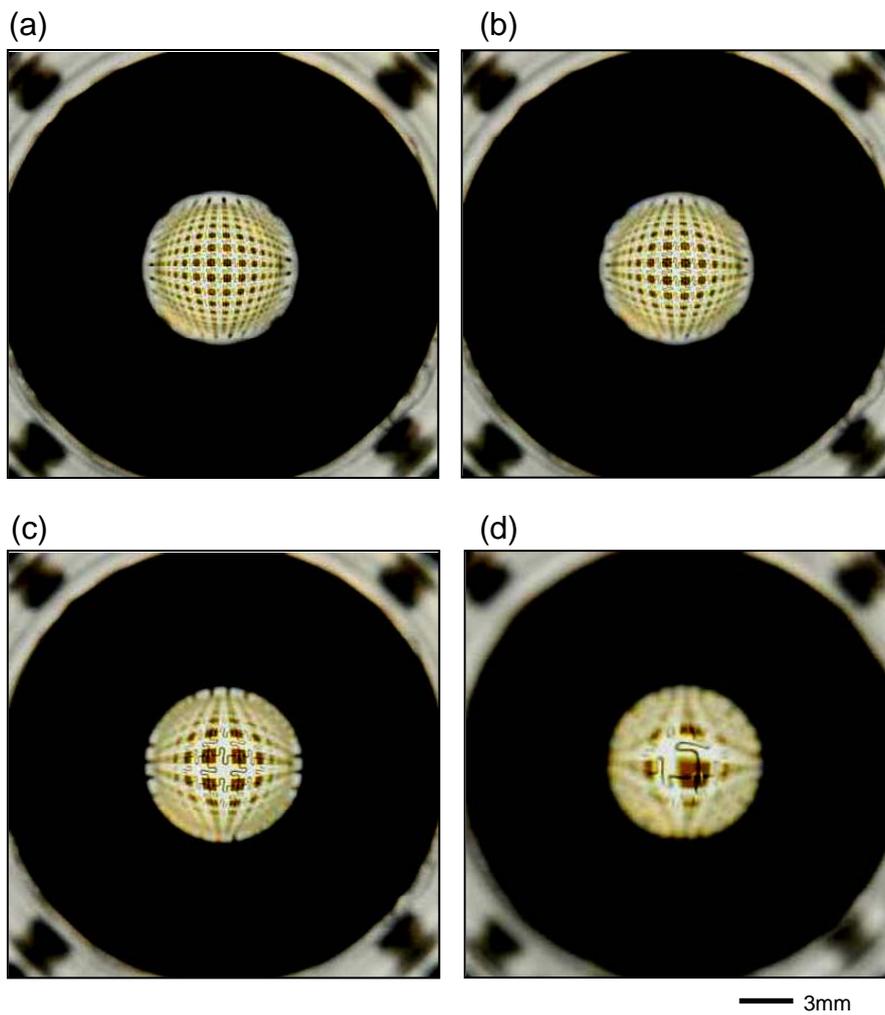
**Fig. S13.** (a) Schematic illustration of photodetectors on undeformed PDMS surface. (b) Schematic illustration of photodetectors on deformed PDMS surface.



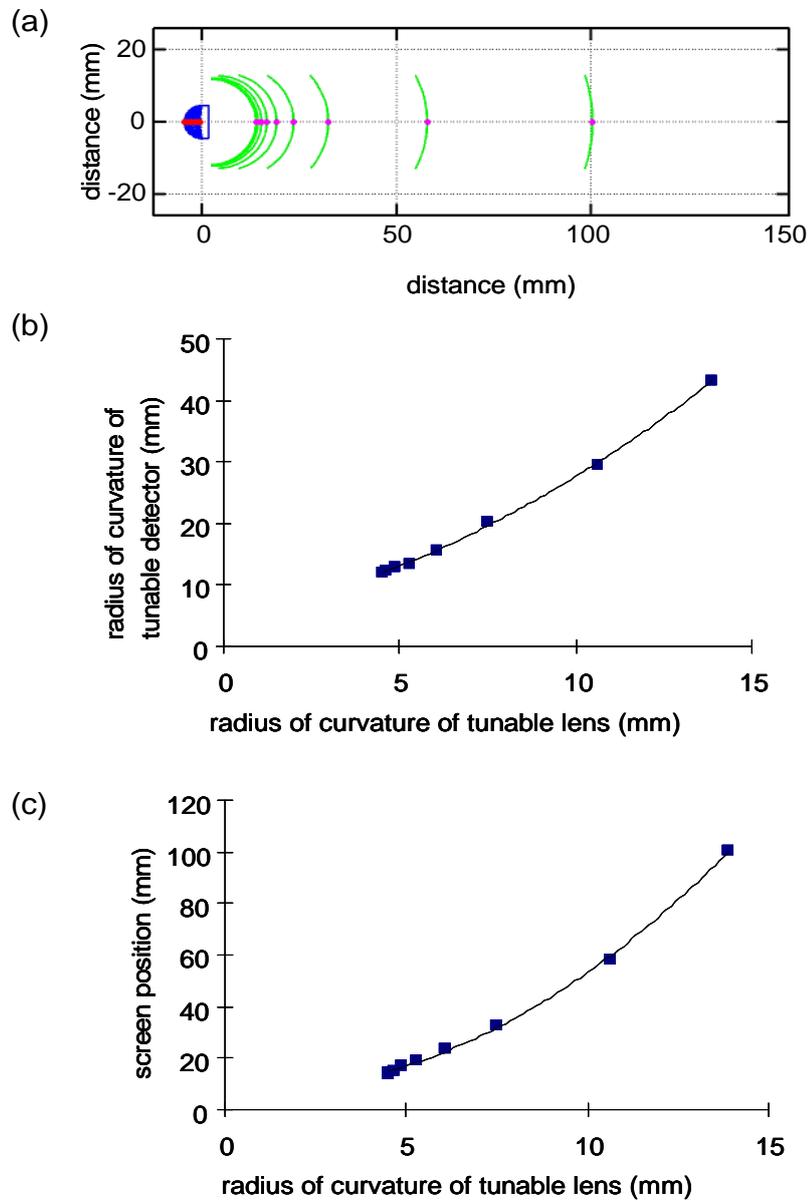
**Fig. S14.** (a) The shape of deformed photodetector surface given by analytical solution shows good agreement with experiment and finite element analysis for 2.69 mm deflection. The analytically given photodetector positions shows good agreement with experiment (b) and finite element analysis (c).



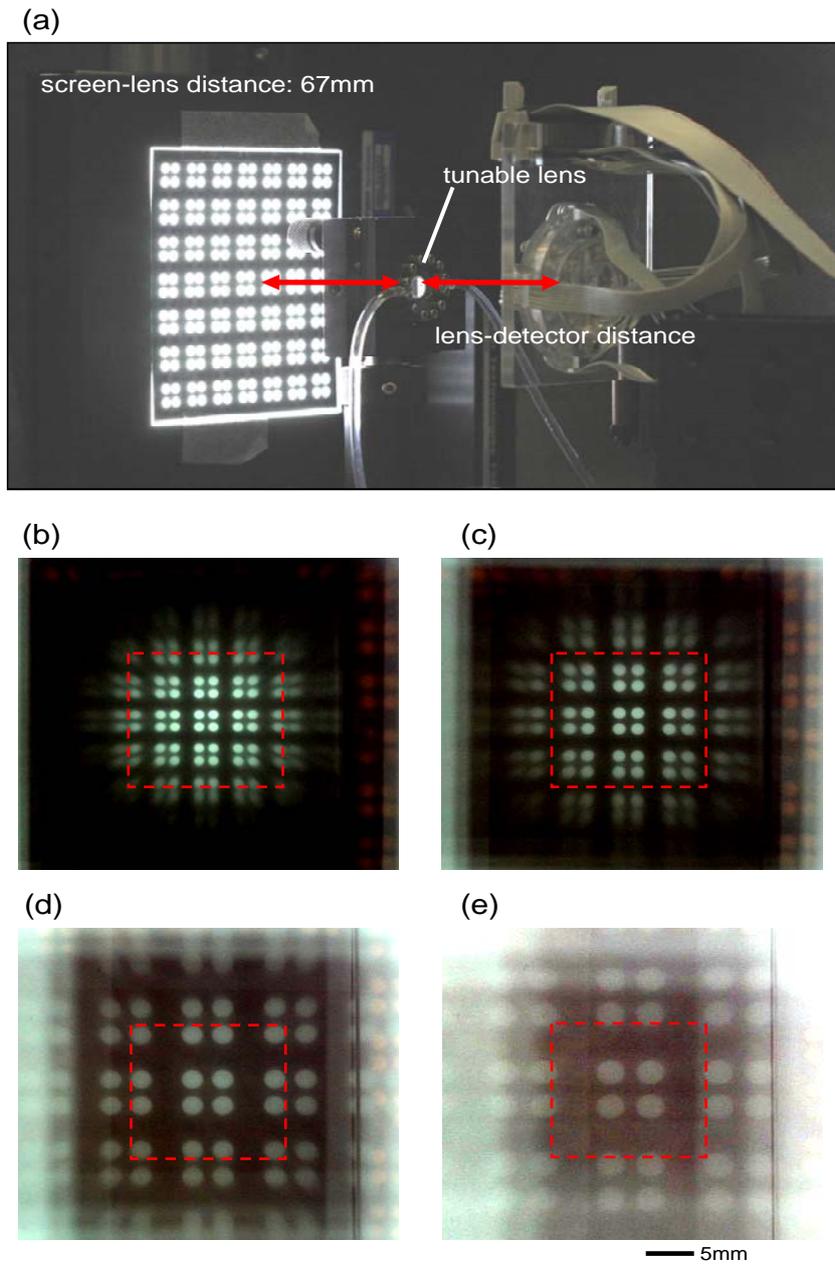
**Fig. S15.** (a) Circumferential strain in PDMS membrane (b) Meridional strain in PDMS membrane.



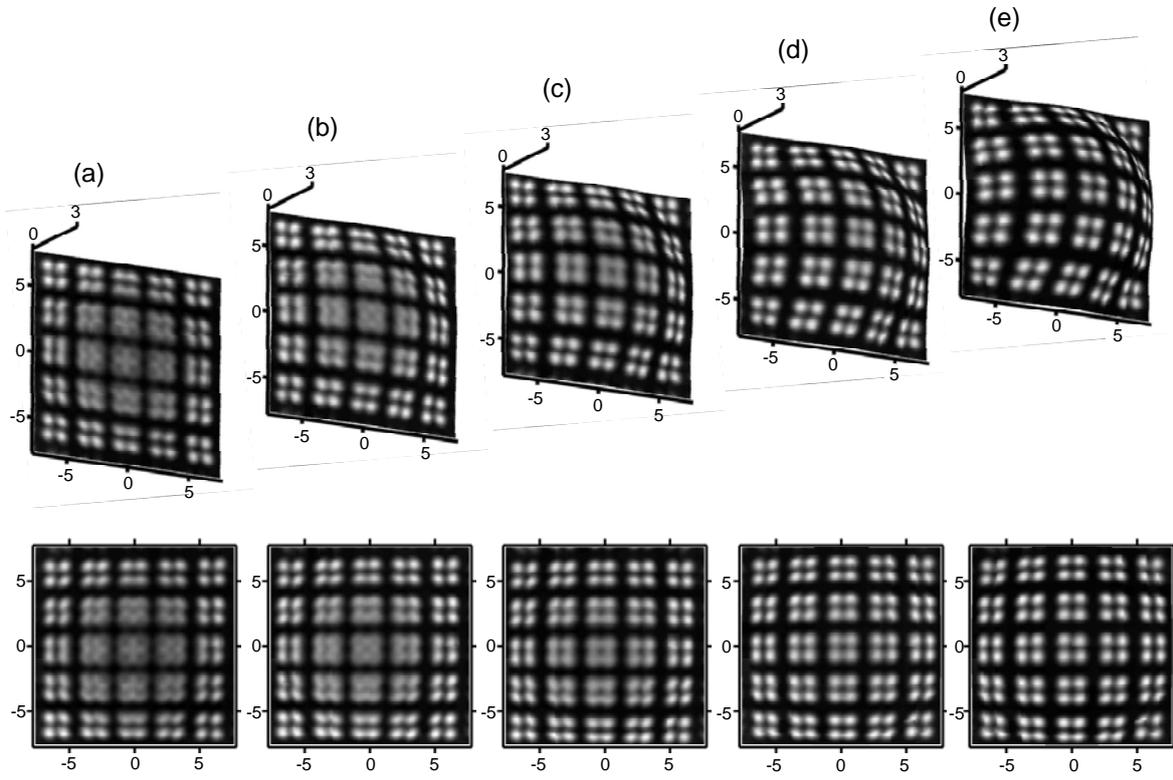
**Fig. S16.** Photographs of the tunable detector imaged through the tunable lens at four different lens geometries: (a) radius of curvature of lens surface  $R_L=4.9\text{mm}$ , (b)  $R_L=6.1\text{mm}$ , (c)  $R_L=7.3\text{mm}$ , (d)  $R_L=11.5\text{mm}$ . (The distance from the bottom of the lens to the bottom of the detector is  $z=25.0\text{mm}$  for all cases.)



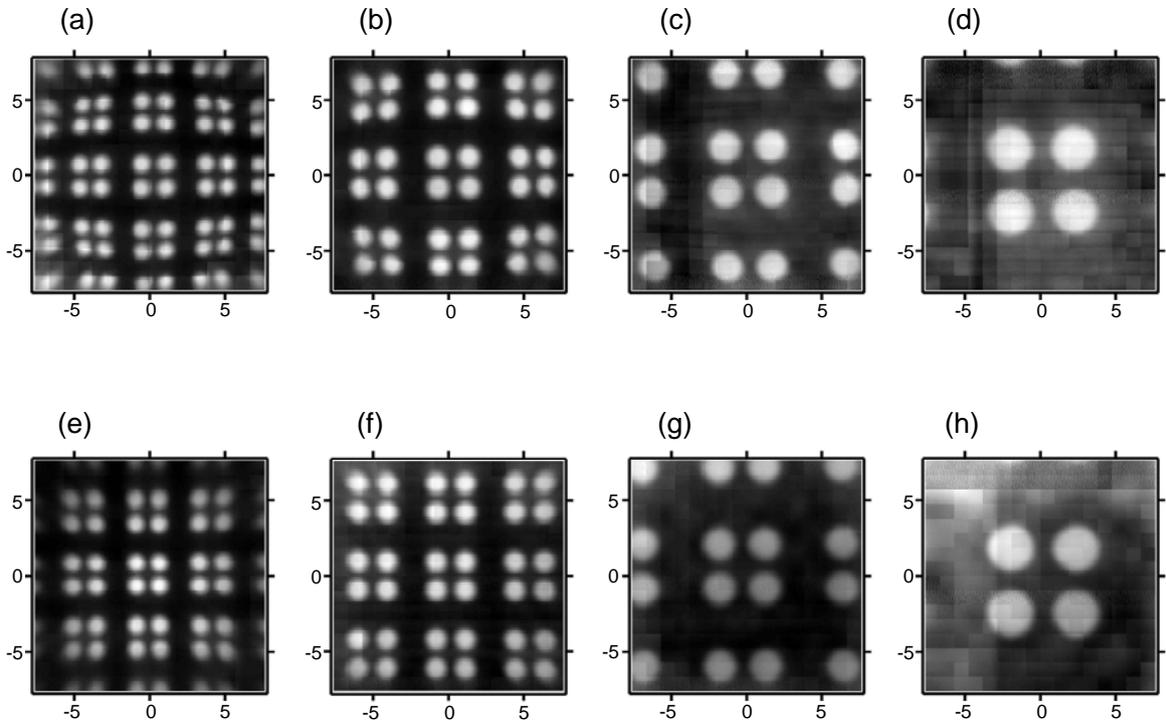
**Fig. S17.** (a) The shapes of lens surfaces and corresponding shapes and distances detector surfaces by raytracing calculation, (b) Relation between radius of curvature of lens and radius of curvature of detector, (c) Relation between radius of curvature of lens and distances from lens.



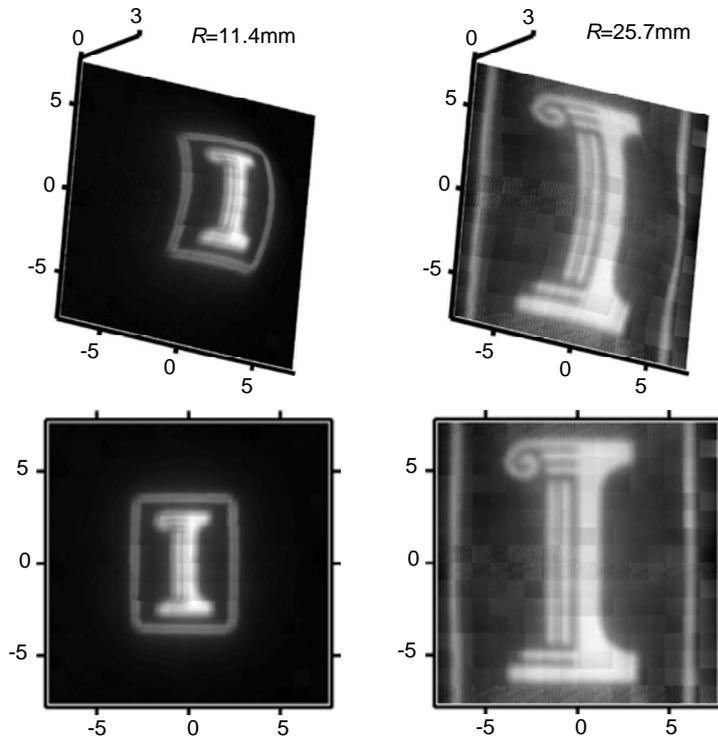
**Fig. S18.** (a) Photograph of the optical setup for image acquisition. Photographs of image formed by tunable lens at a flat diffusive screen: (b) distance from the lens  $z=16\text{mm}$ , radius of curvature of lens surface  $R_L=4.9\text{mm}$ , (c)  $z=24\text{mm}$ ,  $R_L=6.1\text{mm}$ , (d)  $z=38\text{mm}$ ,  $R_L=7.3\text{mm}$ , (e)  $z=55\text{mm}$ ,  $R_L=11.5\text{mm}$ .



**Fig. S19.** Images acquired by the tunable detector at different deformations of detector surfaces: (a) flat detector surface, (b) the radius of curvature  $R_D=88.7\text{mm}$  and the bottom depth  $H_D= 0.4 \text{ mm}$ , (c)  $R_D=42.0\text{mm}$ ,  $H_D= 0.8 \text{ mm}$ , (d)  $R_D=24.1\text{mm}$ ,  $H_D= 1.4 \text{ mm}$ , (e)  $R_D=16.2\text{mm}$ ,  $H_D= 2.2 \text{ mm}$ .



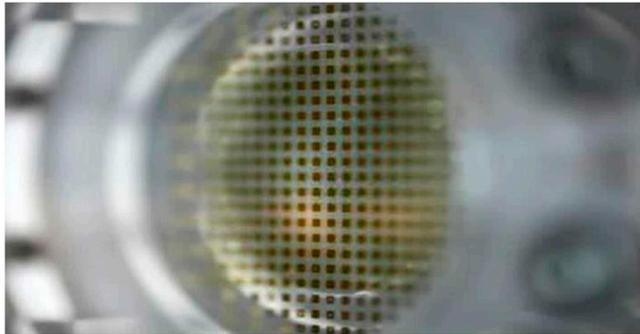
**Fig. S20.** Images acquired by the tunable detector and the tunable lens at four imaging conditions: (a) distance from the lens  $z=16\text{mm}$ , radius of curvature of lens surface  $R_L=4.9\text{mm}$ , radius of curvature of detector surface  $R_D=11.4\text{mm}$ , (b)  $z=24\text{mm}$ ,  $R_L=6.1\text{mm}$ ,  $R_D=14.0\text{mm}$ , (c)  $z=38\text{mm}$ ,  $R_L=7.3\text{mm}$ ,  $R_D=19.2\text{mm}$ , (d)  $z=52\text{mm}$ ,  $R_L=11.5\text{mm}$ ,  $R_D=25.7\text{mm}$ , (e) flat detector surface at the condition (a), (f) flat detector surface at the condition (b), (g) flat detector surface at the condition (c), (h) flat detector surface at the condition (d).



**Fig. S21.** Images of the University of Illinois ‘I’ logo acquired by the tunable detector and the tunable lens at different imaging conditions. The left- and right-hand images are taken at distances from the lens  $z=16\text{mm}$ ,  $48\text{mm}$  and radius of curvatures of lens surfaces  $R_L=4.9\text{mm}$ ,  $9.7\text{mm}$  and radius of curvatures of the detector surfaces  $R_D=11.4\text{mm}$ ,  $25.7\text{mm}$  (from left to right). Projected views of the each image are shown below. The distance between the lens and source image is  $67\text{mm}$ . The axis scales are in millimeters.

# Supporting Information

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**Movie S1.** Real-time movie about deformation of detector surface.

[Movie S1 \(MPG\)](#)