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Imaging complex model catalysts in action: From surface science towards industrial practice using high-pressure scanning tunneling microscopy

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Curriculum Vitae

Rik Mom was born on the 28th of November 1988 in Haarlem, The Netherlands. He graduated from Atheneum College Hageveld in Heemstede in 2007 after manufacturing a prototype of a prosthetic arm in the framework of his school research project. Mom continued his studies through a Bachelor Degree in Molecular Science and Technology at Leiden University and Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands. He obtained his B.Sc. degree after a research project on the corrosion of gold and platinum under anodic and alternating potentials under the supervision of Dr. Alex Yanson and Prof. Marc Koper.

During his Master in Chemistry at Leiden University, Mom investigated the structure and H₂ adsorption properties of a Ni cylindrical crystal under the supervision of Dr. Ludo Juurlink. Before graduating Cum Laude, he performed a research project at the University of Cambridge, UK, in the group of Prof. Michiel Sprik. Under daily supervision of Dr. Jun Cheng, he studied the effects of spin restriction in density functional theory calculations on the binding energies of oxygen evolution reaction intermediates.

Mom pursued a Ph.D. project in the group of Prof. Joost Frenken at the Huygens-Kamerlingh Onnes laboratory, Leiden Institute of Physics, Leiden. After Frenken became director of the Advanced Research Center for Nanolithography in Amsterdam, in 2014, Dr. Irene Groot headed the group and became Mom's co-promotor. Most of the work performed during the project is described in this thesis.

After his Ph.D. defense, Mom will continue his academic research as a postdoc in the group of Dr. Axel Knop-Gericke at the Fritz-Haber-Institute in Berlin.