



妹妹

Mei Mei
and Me

Baby
and
Toddler
Dresses



On the cover: Lisl Zhang Miller, AKA MeiMei, on her first birthday, wearing one of the first dresses I made for her.

I received many requests to make dresses for friends' daughters and granddaughters. So, why not have them made professionally and make them available to everyone?

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Ellen M. Shapiro and Yan Zhang Miller

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Designed
by
Ellen
Shapiro



Lisl

My Mom

Elizabeth “Lisl” Shapiro (1915-2007) grew up in Vienna, Austria, where she learned sewing and knitting as a child. She immigrated to the United States during WWII and ran a needlework shop in Inglewood, California, for many years.



Ellen

Me

I’m a New York-based designer and writer. I was born and grew up in Los Angeles and began sewing my own clothes at age 13. This three-generation story began in 2011 when my son Alex Miller married the talented Yan Zhang.



Yan

Daughter-in-Law

Photographer, artist and mother of Dion, 10, and Lisl, 5 1/2, Yan grew up in China, where she met Alex. They’ve lived in Beijing, San Francisco, Singapore, Bali, and now Chiang Mai, Thailand, where she specializes in portrait, family and event photography.



MeiMei

Granddaughter

Born in October 2020 in Bali, she was named Lisl after her great grandmother, but everybody calls her MeiMei, “Little Sister” in Chinese. MeiMei is curious, opinionated, and loves the beach, creative play and animals.



A Four-Generation Family Story

When I was a young girl, I wanted to be a dress designer. I made elaborate doll clothes until I started sewing my own clothes. Then I discovered graphic design.

MeiMei inspired me to return to my first love, designing with fabrics.

Everyone who sees MeiMei in one of her dresses wants to buy one.

Here we are, a family of talented women entrepreneurs, launching a unique brand to make these dresses available to you and your customers.



What Makes Our Dresses

Designed in New York

Handmade in Bali by an expert dressmaker and her team.

Grow with the child via unique features like decorative let-down hems.

Accurately sized from 3-6 months to 4T.

Fair trade.

So Special?

100% cotton prints and batiks.

Machine washable, versatile, comfortable.

Whimsical mixed patterns.

Trimmed with beautiful Balinese laces and braids.

From crawling to climbing, beach to birthday party.™



What's a let-down hem? Our dresses feature a decorative pleat, hand-stitched with embroidery thread. When the skirt is too short, give the stitching a snip or two and the dress is lengthened by about two inches, depending on size.

At age 2½, MeiMei was still wearing the dresses I made for her first birthday, with the hem let down.



The buttons fasten with stretchy elastic loops that give as the child moves. The braid tie, of course, can be adjusted too.



The Rose Garden Dress

Could this dress be my favorite? I love all of them, but this one — worn by my young friend Matilda — has a special place in my heart.

The bodice is a subtle gold tone-on-tone batik with tiny flowers. The braid tie picks up the magenta and violet in the full gathered skirt. The crocheted-style lace edging also has a rose garden theme.

dress
front



8



These fabrics
never wrinkle
and are a dream
to wash.

The Spring Garden Dress

Who could resist an exploring child like 9-month-old Aylah in this dress? The silky flowered print is paired with pink mini-check fabric with tiny garlands of buds. The braid tie picks up the subtle blue in the print.



9

dress
back



Matching bloomers are available with every style.

Every child who models for us gets a handmade animal made of Balinese batik or a HABA soft doll with a matching dress.



The Dragonfly Dress

Our button-down-the-front style is a sundress when it's warm and a jumper to wear over tees and tights in the colder months.

Red dragonfly cotton is paired with red-and-white mini checks. Crisp white daisy braid circles the bodice.

Buttons with four holes are preferred in the U.S. so we attach them with contrasting thread for a custom look.



The Something Blue Dress

Quinn had fun making a tea party for her new doll in its matching dress.

“Do I get to keep the dolly?” she asked.

“Yes.”

“Forever?”

“Yes, forever!”

I hope you and your customers will be equally enchanted by this button-down-the-front dress in softest blue flowered cottons.



Mei Mei wears her dresses at the beach, in the playground, and playing at home. Am I channeling my own childhood—when we always wore dresses to school—and all the time?

The fully-lined bodice fastens with two buttons with elastic loops and a braid bow at the waist.



The Pink Fish Dress

An enjoyable challenge of working with batiks is deciding how to make the most of one-way designs and borders.

I had fun running the fish pattern two ways and using the border as a waistband. The extra-full skirt is a fun pattern of stylized pink and lavender flowers.

All four patterns are tied together with contrasting narrow braid.



Balinese batiks can change seasonally, such as from clouds (r) to swirls. I choose the best available at the time.



The Swirly-Girly Dress

Emilia happily takes her doll shopping the first edition of this dress.

When I returned to Bali six months later to buy more fabric, the cloud batik was replaced by an equally pretty swirly pattern in the same colorway.

This easy-to-wear one-piece dress has braided-trimmed flutter sleeves and hem. It buttons down the back with five buttons.

front



back



The Flower-Power Dress

Our dresses are wearable for a year or more. That's because — in addition to the hand-stitched pleats above the hem that can be let down with a few snips — the ties and straps are also adjustable.

The Flower-Power dress that Zelda is wearing has a full, gathered skirt and a fully-lined bodice in checked gingham with a subtle print of vines with tiny berries.



A stretchy elastic loop at the top helps the neckline give and breathe.



Matilda is enjoying her morning in the sandbox. Then off to her second-birthday lunch.



The Butterfly Dress

Cut from the same button-down-the-back pattern as the Swirly-Girly Dress on pages 16 and 17, this one-piece dress easily goes from park to birthday party.

Soft, loose, light and comfortable, it buttons down the back. The roomy cut with its hand-stitched, let-down hem offers more than a year of active wear.



Balinese lace encircles the “empire” waist and ties in a bow in the back.

When we say “handmade,” we mean it. The interior French seams are sewn by machine, but much of the stitching is by hand, by skilled workers who are paid fair wages in good working conditions.



Here’s a closeup of how the pleat is hand-stitched with embroidery floss. Give the stitching a snip or two, pull it out, and the skirt is lengthened.



The Ducks in the Rain Dress

On her nine-month birthday, our sweet neighbor Evie modeled this button-back dress with set-in flutter sleeves.

The bodice is a classic batik and the full skirt is in an irresistible print of ducks, lily pads and raindrops.

Evie mixes the patterns up even more with a stuffed giraffe, one of the many animals Balinese wholesalers make from the ends of rolls of fabric.



The Cherry Dress

What's sweeter than a bowl of fresh cherries? The little girl who wears this dress made from cherry-print batik with a traditional geometric border

The fully-lined bodice in a tiny-flowered print has straps that button in front. And the roomy pocket can hold special treasures.

Balinese children learn not to be sad for long, for there will always be happiness to balance it.

Tassels—to sweep away bad spirits—are everywhere, including on jewelry and umbrellas, which adorn and protect temples (and people) big and small celebrating at the many festivals and ceremonies.

I gave this dress to MeiMei for her third birthday. She didn't want to take it off.



The straps have let-down pleats

back



front

The Yin-Yan Dress

Black-and-white check gingham is everywhere in Bali: draped over statues of deities and used in ceremonies. It's often accented with bright golden yellow.

Checks are called 'poleng,' I learned, in Bahasa Indonesian. They symbolize a core Balinese philosophy: opposites need each other. There's no day without night or joy without sorrow.

Inspired by the culture, I crafted this joyfully cute dress with a lined bodice, pleated skirt, and adjustable straps.

We make the smaller sizes in gingham with smaller checks



What small child won't look adorable climbing the steps or in the playground in this dress with marching elephants and lions.



Leggings not included

The Elephant Dress

This loose-fitting, short and sweet dress made from hand-screened fabric slips over the head.

It looks especially cute as a tunic with leggings.

The polka-dotted band at the bottom is edged with another row of braid on the inside. The hand-sewn hemstitching can be easily removed to lengthen the dress.



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MeiMei+Me

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Dresses

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New York by
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Handmade in Bali

Fair Trade

100% Cotton Prints
and Batiks

Whimsical Mixed
Patterns

Grow with the Child

From Crawling to
Climbing, Beach to
Birthday Party™

see our whole line at
meimeinandme.world

SIZE

9 - 12
Months

This booklet is a personal
invitation to offer MeiMei and Me
Baby and Toddler dresses
in your store.

Let's talk!

Ellen Shapiro

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