

# oliver + s



## biography of liesl gibson

When Oliver +S founder, Liesl Gibson, began searching for clothing patterns for her new daughter she was disappointed by the lack of contemporary design and the outdated fit specifications she encountered across the market. Ultimately, she began creating her own patterns. "The potential for sewing unique and wonderful children's clothing is limitless," says Gibson. "But I couldn't find patterns that inspired me to sew. So I created my own."

A native of Wisconsin, Gibson grew up around the sewing machine. Both her mother and grandmother are accomplished seamstresses and practitioners of needle arts, and her mother sewed much of Gibson's clothing when she was young.

Gibson started sketching clothing designs at age nine, joking that someday she would design her own lines. She eventually taught herself to sew in one afternoon, producing a jumper that she wore the same day. "Sewing is just something that seems to come naturally for me," says Gibson.

After working in publishing and finance early in her career, Gibson returned to school and earned a degree in fashion design from New York's Fashion Institute of Technology. Before having her daughter in 2005, she worked as a designer for such high-profile fashion brands as Tommy Hilfiger and Ralph Lauren.

In addition to running her own company and chasing after a toddler, Gibson teaches contemporary sewing classes at New York City's Purl Patchwork, located in the West Village. "If New York is any indication of how hot the art of sewing is becoming, then we are on the cusp of the next huge crafting trend," says Gibson.

Liesl Gibson has lived in Manhattan for the past 16 years and since 2005 has authored the popular blog, Disdressed ([www.disdressed.blogspot.com](http://www.disdressed.blogspot.com)), which covers sewing and design issues combined with observations about daily life as an entrepreneur, parent, crafter, and New Yorker.