

## Handful build Miami's reputation...

BY JACQUELYN WEINER

Standing out in a crowd can be a challenge in itself.

But a handful of Miamians have managed to transcend merely local fame, building a nationwide reputation for very different reasons.

Artist **Jim Drain** came to Miami for love.

The 34-year-old artist, originally from Cleveland, moved to the area in 2005 and said he soon felt at home.

Miami "gives you a lot of space to explore your ideas," he said. "There's a lot of support for the arts here."

Peter Boswell, senior curator at the Miami Art Museum, wrote in an e-mail that it's impossible to pick a best out of the "many, many talented artists working in Miami today."

Yet "one artist whose reputation is definitely on the rise is Jim Drain," Mr. Boswell wrote.

Among Mr. Drain's accomplishments Mr. Boswell cited: Inclusion in the 2002 Whitney Biennial, a biennial exhibition of contemporary American art at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City, and a current solo exhibition at the Blanton Museum of Art at the University of Texas at Austin.

Mr. Drain's unique mixed-media sculptures and knitted pixel sweaters have been featured in the Boston Globe and The New York Times Style Magazine's blog and earned him the 2005 Baloise Art Prize at Switzerland's Art Basel – considered a centerpiece of the world-renowned contemporary art fair.

### THE BEST OF MIAMI 2010 NATIONAL FIGURES

Yet when you talk to Mr. Drain, he is humble.

Creating art is "something that I've always wanted to do," Mr. Drain said. "I feel so blessed at this point that I'm still able to do that."

He also said he is looking forward to his mixed-media sculpture going on display as part of the Miami Art Museum's upcoming "New Work Miami 2010."

"I'm excited because I'm sort of on this new kick of ideas," Mr. Drain said. "I think it's going to be a good one."

And as for the long-distance relationship Mr. Drain moved to Miami for?

"It worked out beautifully," he said.

Reaching out to audiences in a different medium, USA Network's hit series "Burn Notice," which is one of the few shows filmed in Miami, has found a national following.

Jeff Peel, director of the Miami-Dade Office of Film and Entertainment, tapped "Burn Notice" creator **Matt Nix** and star **Jeffrey Donovan** for building a national reputation – and bringing Miami along for the ride.

"To a large degree, 'Burn Notice' has put Miami back on the map in the television business," Mr. Peel said. "The show really captures the look of Miami very well."

And if the series continues filming in Miami for an anticipated six years, it would be the longest-running show to shoot in Miami, he said, including "Miami Vice."

Another Miamian whose accomplishments have developed a following is architect **Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk**, said Neisen Kasdin, a shareholder with Akerman Senterfitt, former mayor of Miami Beach and vice chair of the Miami Downtown Development Authority's Board of Directors.

Ms. Plater-Zyberk was "already an internationally known planner," Mr. Kasdin said, "but with the passage of Miami 21, has achieved a new milestone of her career which is now being emulated nationally."

Enacted in May, Miami 21 is the city's new zoning code and blueprint for growth.

Other US cities like Denver and Philadelphia are "looking to redesign their whole code to follow Miami 21," Mr. Kasdin said.

Ms. Plater-Zyberk is principal of Duany Plater-Zyberk & Co. and dean of the University of Miami's School of Architecture.

A graduate of Princeton University and Yale University, according to the architecture school's website, Ms. Plater-Zyberk's accomplishments include co-authoring "Suburban Nation: The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream," designing buildings in downtown West Palm Beach and developing Miami's much-discussed Miami 21 code.

## ...by vaulting into national spotlight

Mr. Kasdin also nominated **Michael Tilson Thomas**, founder and artistic director of the New World Symphony, as a Miamian who has built a nationwide name.

"He's considered the top, perhaps the most important conductor in orchestral music in the world," Mr. Kasdin said.

Mr. Thomas wears many hats, according to his website, as music director of the San Francisco Symphony and principal guest conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra, in addition to his duties with the New World Symphony.

He is the third generation in his family to have a career in the arts, according to the site. His grandparents were founding members of the Yiddish Theater, his father a producer and his mother head of research for Columbia Pictures.

His former titles include music director for the Young Musicians Foundation Debut Orchestra, assistant conductor and principal guest conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, music director of the Buffalo Philharmonic and principal guest conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Mr. Thomas in 1988 began the New World Symphony, the Miami-based national orchestral academy for promising music graduates that has gone on to perform at Carnegie Hall and in Austria, France, Great Britain, Japan and more.