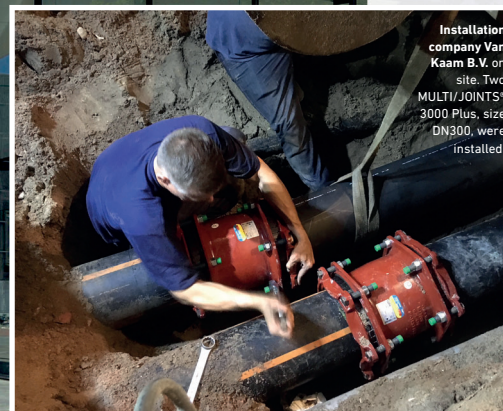


How the MULTI/JOINT® Became a Piece of Art

Gallery picture
STEDELIJK BASE,
Collection
Stedelijk Museum
Amsterdam, c/o
Pictoright
Amsterdam.
Photo: Gert Jan
van Rooij.



Installation
company Van
Kaam B.V. on
site. Two
MULTI/JOINTS®
3000 Plus, size
DN300, were
installed.

Imagine being the manager of the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, a large and popular art museum in the Netherlands. Just like any other day, you are in control and making sure everything goes well. Of course, that is until you are faced with a potentially disastrous leakage...

This scenario actually happened in the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam last year. All of a sudden water emerged between the floor tiles near the entrance of the museum. Outside it was hotter than 30 °C and the humidity increased rapidly. That was enough cause for panic; the damp air was an immediate threat to all of the paintings, as it can cause paint to run. Historical artwork – worth millions of euro’s – could get severely damaged. The museum was evacuated immediately. Visitors had to leave right away and the installation company Van Kaam B.V. was called for an emergency solution.

The MULTI/JOINT® as a solution
The water appeared to come from the heat and cold storage, which regulates the climate control of the museum. A defect to the regulator of a pump caused the pressure to increase. As a result, a gasket of a flange connection was blown off with great force. In no time liters of water filled the room and the air-conditioning was disrupted. Van Kaam was on site at 7 p.m. and the race against the clock began. A welding socket was not an option in this situation, because of the

constant water flow. MULTI/JOINT® was the best solution in this case. Two MULTI/JOINT® 3007 couplings – size DN300 – were installed by the engineers. The installation went smoothly, thanks to the ‘one-size-fits-and-grips-all-principle’. The leakage was resolved excellently and quickly.

The importance of fast solutions
The quick actions of the engineers in combination with the user-friendliness of the MULTI/JOINT® couplings ensured the safety of the paintings. But there was more; the incident had another positive impact.

Every year, nearly 700.000 people from all over the world visit the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam to enjoy the works of artists such as Mondriaan, Picasso and Cézanne. A long-term repair project would force the museum to close its doors and hundreds of visitors – if not thousands – would have to be denied access. The museum hoped to open its doors to the public again the morning after the leakage and they could. Well on time, at 4:30 a.m., the last tiles were put back in place again. When the first visitors were stepping over the threshold, the Stedelijk Museum looked like nothing had ever happened. ■