

## eDRAIN™ Solution to Aging Drains

in Historic Corcoran Gallery of Art / Corcoran College of Art and Design, in Washington, DC

### Background:

The Corcoran Gallery of Art / Corcoran College of Art and Design, is the largest privately supported art institution in Washington, D.C. Founded in 1867 "for the purpose of encouraging American Genius," the Corcoran houses a prestigious art school and an extensive collection of 18th, 19th, and 20th century American art. The permanent collection represents some of the most significant American artists such as Andy Warhol as well as works by Monet, Picasso and Rembrandt.

### The Problem:

The Corcoran Gallery of Art, like many older buildings, has cast iron drains that run from the roof of the gallery to the wastewater mains. The drains were aging and there was fear that their failure could result in water damage to the museum or the works of art.



The gallery hired a well known, reputable general contractor, the Christman Company, to replace the drains and perform a roof, skylight, HVAC, and drainage project. The Christman Company, founded in 1894, provides general contracting services with annual revenues of more than \$400 million, with approximately \$1.5 billion worth of construction currently underway.

The Christman Company was able to replace a few site drains located in accessible areas without incident. Unfortunately, several drains were located behind electrical conduit posing a major challenge. Replacing these drains would necessitate relocation of the artwork before the demo work can begin for a conventional repipe. Moving the art safely would involve extensive preparation, protection and special storage. The process would be arduous and require an increase in budget for the project. Closing the gallery while the drains were being replaced and increasing the cost to the overall project was not acceptable for this situation, so the Christman Company began looking for an alternative solution.

### The Solution:

The Christman Company learned about the ACE DuraFlo® eDRAIN™ process. When they heard that the rehabilitation could be performed without shutting down operations or damaging the building, they knew The Corcoran Gallery Project was the perfect candidate for the eDRAIN™ process. In order to not impact the museum or the college, it was necessary for the ACE DuraFlo® team to complete all work from the roof and the basement only. All equipment was lifted to the roof top by crane.

ACE DuraFlo® rehabilitated the rain leaders without shutting down any operations at the museum by using their cured-in-place-pipe eDRAIN™ process. All areas of all of the galleries remained open during the restoration and the students at the college were not disturbed in any way. The artwork is now protected from the threat of damage that might have been caused by old, failing rain leaders.