On the heels of the Vogel gift, the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art received an important donation of 20 drawings from New York collectors Werner (Wynn) and Sally Kramarsky. The Kramarskys began collecting in 1958 with the purchase of a drawing by Jasper Johns. Every so often, as they did with the Museum of Modern Art in 2004, the Kramarskys donate a portion of their collection to a museum. In early 2009, the Kramarskys gave a set of 20 drawings to the CRMA, including works by such notable artists as Sol LeWitt, Perle Fine, and Lois Dodd. In many ways, the Kramarsky gift builds upon that of the Vogel’s, exploring the legacy of minimal and conceptual work from the 1970s to today.

Less is More tells the extraordinary story of Herbert Vogel, a New York postal clerk, and his wife Dorothy Vogel, a Brooklyn librarian, who together managed to build one of the most important contemporary art collections in history with very modest means. After collecting for more than 30 years, they amassed a collection of over 4,000 pieces. After a generous donation to the National Gallery, they decided to share the rest of their collection with the nation. In 2008, the Vogels began distributing 50 works of art to one museum in each of the 50 states as a part of their Fifty Works for Fifty States initiative. The Cedar Rapids Museum of Art was chosen to be the recipient of their gift to Iowa and this is the first time their donation has been displayed.

The Dorothy and Herbert Vogel Collection: Fifty Works for Fifty States is a joint initiative of the Trustees of the Dorothy and Herbert Vogel Collection and the National Gallery of Art, with generous support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.