Art held moral messages

Scripture continued from E1

phistication on the part of the intended audience. And we think we are the image generation.

The exhibition – curated by Emory University professor Walter S. Melion and Sarah Campbell Blaffer Foundation director James Clifton – includes rare books as well as prints and extensive labels for those who want to delve deeply into meaning and context of individual pieces.

Because of the low-light levels necessary to preserve these fragile works, however, it is not the optimum environment for studying them as art objects. For that, you should visit "Old Master Highlights of the Works on Paper Collection" on the first floor. White walls and brighter lighting make it easier to focus on the formal qualities of the work, particularly the myriad of line lines used to create volume, light and shadow and descriptive detail.

Carlos Museum curator Margaret Shufeldt has enlarged upon the parameters of the "Scriptures" in this companion exhibition. In addition to 16th-century Netherlandish pieces, she includes German and Italian prints and drawings from the 16th to 18th centuries.

The show reflects the shift from engraving to etching, a medium closer to the freedom of drawing, and offers examples of secular themes.

Highlights include several works by virtuoso printmaker Albrecht Durer and Giovanni Battista Piranesi's remarkable fantasies of ancient Rome.