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**On show:** Taniji Price, 20, and Charlene McCormick, 19, with their works of art and a piece by John Moreton, 19, on the right **Photograph:** Dave Betts

## Art flourishes among youngsters in care

ARTWORK by young Bristolians who have been in care has been accepted for a national exhibition.

Called *Flourish*, the exhibition highlights the work of looked-after children and young people.

Taniji Price, 19, of Lawrence Hill, who has been in foster care since the age of seven, submitted an abstract painting on canvas.

Charlene McCormick, 19, of Barton Hill, was in care from the age of 12. Charlene, who plans to study health and social care at college from September, submitted her Egyptian-style batik artwork.

The third local entry to be featured at the exhibition is of a path in Ashton Court by John Morton, 19, from Bristol.

Mark Farmer, a teacher for the city council's Care and After Team, oversaw Bristol's entries.

He said: "I saw the exhibition was on so I asked students who I

thought would be suitable if they would like to apply to enter.

"We submitted 15 pieces of art and three were accepted.

"I was very pleased because it is a national competition with limited space and the criteria for entry was very strict, so it is a great result."

The first *Flourish* exhibition took place last year and included the work of 25 young artists from around the country, all of whom are or have been looked-after in some way.

Some are cared for by grandparents, some are residents of care homes, some have been young offenders and some have foster carers or are adopted.

*Flourish* will be held in Bournemouth later this year, to coincide with the Directors of Social Services conference.

For more details of the exhibition, visit [www.flourish-art.org](http://www.flourish-art.org).

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