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2015 Hall of Fame inductees to be recognized at Friday's game

"Most of the people who work on flower farms are women," Patel explained.

More than 85 percent of the workforce in the Ethiopian floriculture industry are women and 88 percent of those workers are in the 18-30 age range, according to the EHPEA. Sixty percent of the women are single and 62 percent are enrolled in elementary education only.

All of these factors make them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

Patel views herself as a "social artist."

"I'm using art as a way to engage the community and individuals (in a conversation about) a social cause," Patel explained.

Patel always tries to make her work "as inviting and as beautiful as possible," so it gives people pause and creates an opportunity for them to "see things differently."

To learn more about Patel and her work, please visit [www.ritapatel.com](http://www.ritapatel.com)

CJ Carnacchio is editor for The Oxford Leader. He lives in the Village of Oxford with his wife Connie and daughter Larissa. When he's not busy working on the newspaper, he enjoys cigars/pipes, Martinis/Scotch, hunting and fishing.

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