Born on 1 November 1957, Dr. Vijay S Hagargundagi holds a Diploma in Fine Arts from The Ideal Fine Arts Institute, Gulbarga. He is a recipient of an Honorary Doctrate from Gulbarga University. Vijay Hagargundagi studied miniature painting at Vijayanagar (Surapura Garudadri school) and headed to the Ideal Fine Art Society's MMK College of Visual Art. A scholarship from Karnataka Lalitakala Academy gave him an opportunity to go to Shantiniketan. He continued to study miniature paintings under the tutelage of Sri Dwarka Prasad Sharma of Rajasthan, with an emphasis on the gold leaf application on gesso. Learnt and practiced the French bronze hollow casting of lost wax process under well known sculptor Sri Pushpa Betala.

This successful experiment created a sensation amongst the gallerists and seasoned art collectors, Vijay’s paintings were sold far and wide. Today, they adorn many a beautiful mansions, museums and collections across the globe. His favourite subjects for paintings are from Shiva purana, Dashavatara, Navagraha, Ashta Dikpalakas, Ashtanayikas, Kama Sutra, etc. His love for Hindustani music is reflected in his painting series of Ragamala.

Several awards and recognitions have been bestowed on Vijay by various institutions like Karnataka Lalita Kala Academy, AlFACS, Mallikarjuna Mansur Foundation, etc. Vijay has participated in ‘Art in Action’, which is held annually at London, for four years in 1987, 1988, 1989 and 2000. He has held several one man shows of his paintings in New Delhi (1983, 1986 & 1993), Baroda (1986), Bangalore (1983, 1986, 1988, 1990), Mumbai (1991) and Gulbarga (Vikas Bhavan 1997) along with shows at New Delhi (Art Today 1995 & Gallery Espace 2001) and London (Nehru Centre 2000). His paintings are in the collections of Lalitakala Academies of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Chennai, New Delhi, Neemrana Fort Palace, Modern Art Gallery, New Delhi, South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur, Sanskriti Museum, New Delhi, Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Venkatappa Art Gallery, Government Museum, Bangalore, Folklore Museum, Ramsons Kala Pratishtana, Mysore and many private collections in and outside India.