# JOSEPH MALACHY KAVANAGH 1856-1918

# Forgeries and Misattributions

Recent research on the Irish artist, Joseph Malachy Kavanagh, has led to the exposure of a significant number of forgeries passing through the auction rooms over the last 35 years or so, all fully catalogued as Joseph Malachy Kavanagh's autograph work. Many of these are bought from American auction houses by uninformed or unscrupulous dealers, who then pass them off in Ireland, Britain, and elsewhere as autograph works. The majority of these forgeries bear added signatures, invariably in red paint. There is an ill-informed belief in the forgery trade that red paint is not detectable as an addition under ultra violet light. A number of other paintings bear altered signatures and there are also a number of innocent misattributions to add to the confusion. Nevertheless, the great majority of these forgeries are described in the auction catalogues as the work of the Irish artist, Joseph Malachy Kavanagh 1856-1918. The forgeries fall into three main categories:

1. Paintings by unknown artists with forged signatures, mostly in the form of 'J.M. Kavanagh', added in red paint. Many of the forged signatures are very similar, which suggests that many of these forgeries have emanated from one particular forger for export to America;

2. Paintings by an undocumented artist, probably American-Irish, who signed his work M. Kavanagh (see Forgeries no.6 and no.10 for example). These paintings have had a 'J.' added before the 'M' by the forger. M. Kavanagh was perhaps a non-exhibiting journeyman painter specialising in clerical portraits and religious works;

3. Paintings by an American artist, John F. Kavanagh c.1853-c.1898. He signed his work J. Kavanagh. These paintings have been sold unaltered and are classed as misattributions. However, they have also been fraudulently passed off as the work of Joseph Malachy Kavanagh 1865-1918. For example, Eldreds, East Dennis, USA, were informed before their auction on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021 that 'Woman by a Lake' [see page 5] was by John F. Kavanagh and not Joseph Malachy Kavanagh. However, they ignored the advice and sold the painting as a work by the Irish artist.

Dominic Milmo-Penny

Milmo-Penny Fine Art Ltd. 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dominic Milmo-Penny has been involved in the fine art trade since 1963 when he worked as an assistant to Monty Siev, Dublin's leading dealer at that time. This was followed by six years technical study during which time he developed the examination techniques he employs today. In 1974, he established Milmo-Penny Fine Art Limited, a private dealership specialising in late 19<sup>th</sup> century Irish and European paintings. Over the following years, he developed a specialist expertise in the detection of forgery. His particular skills were commissioned by the National Gallery of Ireland in 1996 when they attributed 'The Goose Girl', one of their most popular paintings, to the Sheffield artist, Stanley Royle, thus ending a controversy, which had run for twenty years or so. In March 2018, he presented a talk on art forgery during the 'Fake' exhibition at the Science Gallery, Trinity College Dublin. In June 2018, he was invited by Forensic Science Ireland to deliver a talk on art forgery at Garda Headquarters, Dublin.

https://forensicscience.ie/ https://dublin.sciencegallery.com/ https://www.nationalgallery.ie/ Joseph Mullachy KAVANAGA (1956-1917 *The Doctor's Vall* (9) Let # 84 Parking Odd area Decimal Decimal Extensities 6 406 - 500 Odd area Extensities 6 406 - 500 Odd area Decimal Deci



#### KAVANAGH FORGERY 1 & 14FEB'20 #2

Joseph Malachy KAVAHAGH (1856-1918) Arab Kright (=) Let # 15 Parting Officanus 6056:508.cm Hammer pice: C437:06:0700 Samor pince: C437:0700 Samor pince: C437:0700



#### KAVANAGH FORGERY 3 & 19APRIL'12 #4

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Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918)



#### **KAVANAGH FORGERY 5**



#### KAVANAGH FORGERY 6 & 180CT'17 #7

Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918) Artist En Plein Air By River Rapids © Let #123 Parting Olfarmus Sola x 61 cm Net sold Estimate: 600 - 61.200 Spring and - online Goly 17 feb 2020 © Challen only Waye's Instand Details Spred lower right



### KAVANAGH FORGERY 8 & 14JUNE'19 #9

Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918)	
Portrait of John Timothy McNicholas (1877-1950), an Irish born clergyman who was named Bishop of Duluth, Minnesota, and later Archbishop of Cincinnati (c.1910)	Ø
Lot # 764	
Painting	
Oil/canvas	
75 x 49 cm	
Not sold	<
Estimate: € 684 - € 856 (\$ 800 - \$ 1,000 )	
14 jul 2018	
Case Antiques Inc.	
Knoxville TN, United States	
Details	
Signed lower right	
Condition: Overall cracquelure, several miniscule scattered paint flak most noticeably in the eye/glasses area. Blacklight reveals no signific involves and a construction. Some have been selected as a several state	



#### KAVANAGH FORGERY 10 & 14JULY'18 #11

Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918) Journey to Give the Sacrament of the Sick ○ Let # 5 Panting Officianes 40 x 50 cm Senting prefix € 512 (# 607) S



### **KAVANAGH FORGERY 12**

Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918) Duck Trophes (\*) Let # 2550 Diffuences & 3 x 40 m Hammer price: (\*733 - 610) Estmate: (\*733 - 6120 + 610 - 6120) Paning: - formation: Wards of Art 15 jas 2017 Defroit ML United States: Defails Defait ML United States:

#### **KAVANAGH FORGERY 13**

#### Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918)

Volung Fisherman (\*) Lor #5 Parting Olf/canus/board 48 x 30 cm Net sold Estimate: C 1,104 - C 1,472 (# 1.500 - F 2.000) Fine Art - Decorative Arts & Jewelty Os jan 2014 Michaen's Auctions Alameda CA: United States Details Signed lower right Hustrated on page 1 of the catalog KAVANAGH FORGERY 14

### Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918)

Scene with Setters 
Cue 4 107
Lot 4

### Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918)

On the Banks of the Loita, Finistere (1885) Let #8 Paining Olicanas 69 x 47 cm Hamme price: **6**,741 (IPF 4.500) Estimate **6**,638 - 67,518 (IPF 4.500) **Hamme price: 6**,741 (IPF 4.500) **Hamme price: 6**,374 (IPF 4.500) **Hamme price: 6**,376 (IPF 4.500) **Hamme price: 6**,3

### KAVANAGH FORGERY 17 & 28SEPT'16 #18

#### Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918)

Portrait of a Cardinal before a View of St. Peter's" Tortania of a Cardinal before a View of St. Peter's" Pinaning Olicanas 151 x 101 cm Hammer price: € 440 (± 400) Price including buyer's premum € 547 (± 610) Starting price: € 359 - € 718 (± 600 : ± 600) Buyertani Winter Startes Auction 20 feb 2016 Neal Auction Company New Orleans LA, United Startes Details Signed lower right KAVANAGH FORGERY 19











[Oseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918) Confession ◎ Lat # 37 Painting Olidamus S1 % 61 cm Mamore price: 600 Estimate: 62000 - 62,000 **Histore** Big # 2007 **Morgan ODriscell Fine Art Auctioneers** Subdoveren, trefix **DetaBi** Signed lower right



### KAVANAGH FORGERY 20 & 26MAY'07 #21 & 7DEC'05 #22 & 26JUN'00 #23

Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918)
Two Pointers with a Hunstman in Landscape
Lot # 86
Painting
Oil/canvas
50 x 60 cm
Not sold
Estimate: € 800 - € 1,200
19TH AND 20TH CENTURY ART AND LITTERATURE
26 feb 2008
Adam's
Dublin, Ireland
Details
Signed
Illustrated on page 19 of the catalog



#### KAVANAGH FORGERY 24 & 29OCT'08 #25 & 26FEB'08 #26

Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918) Modonno and Child () Lee 7.7 Paining Oliticanuss \$1 x 41 cm Not sold Estimature 6 691 - € 921 (# 600 - £ 800) Estimature 6 (# 600 - £ 800) Es



KAVANAGH FORGERY 27

Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918) The Christ Child © Lot #133 Paining Oli/convas 61 x 51 cm Hammer price: C675 Estimate: E 600 - 6 900 28 may 2007 Morgan O'Dricoll Fine Art Auctioneers Cork, teland Details Signed lower left

KAVANAGH FORGERY 28 & 9JAN'7 #29 & 12MAY'01 #30

#### Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918)

Mother with sleeping Child 😒	
Lot # 1038	
Painting	
Oil/canvas	
50 x 40 cm	
Hammer price: € 2,097 (\$ 2,700 )	
Estimate: € 932 - € 1,165 (\$ 1,200 - \$ 1,500)	
ANTIQUES ART	
01 may 2005	
Sloans & Kenyon	
Bethesd MD, United States	
Details	
Signed lower right	
Illustrated on page 186 of the catalog	

KAVANAGH FORGERY 31 & 16MAY'03 #32 & 18SEP'93 #33 & 23APR'90 #34 & 26OCT'88 #35





### KAVANAGH FORGERY 36

Joseph Malachy KAVANGCH (1856-1918) Still Life with Lobster, Olysters and Fish (\*) Life 4:2 Paning Olicarus 50:43 0:0 Homme price (AM (\* 1.58)) Price notading Suyer's permany (\* 988,8 ( 1.58)) Price notading Suyer's permany Statusters (\* 238/\* 2402) 13:00: 19:00 Homme price (AM (\* 1.58)) Homme price (\* 2402) 13:00: 19:00 Homme price (\* 2402) 13:00 Homme pric



# KAVANAGH FORGERY 37

Annolong MII (©) Late #175 Perima Oliboard 227.85 cm Estimate #2.200-6 4.000 MSH MA Sologa 2004 Sologa 2004 Marry Dubin, Ireland Dubin, Ireland Dubin, Ireland



### **KAVANAGH FORGERY 38**

Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918)	
Gambling for a Goose	
Lot # 72	
Painting	
Oil/canvas	
51 x 76 cm	
Hammer price: € 5,841 (/EP 4,600.)	
Estimate: € 5,079 - € 6,348 (IEP 4,000 - IEP 5,000 )	
IRISH ART WITH A SELECTION OF WORKS BY BRITISH ARTISTS	
12 jun 2001	
Whyte's	
ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY, Dublin, Ireland	
Details	
Signed lower right	
Illustrated on page 29 of the catalog	



KAVANAGH FORGERY 39 & 26FEB'01 #40

[Joseph Malachy KAVANACH (1856-1918) (Jon Form) (回 Lef 153 Fairing Olifeanas 49 x 60 m Hamme griedc (551 / 150) From inducting bysey (premume: 1503 of 66) Extensite: (73 / 1513 of alex - 1 - 150) 24 mg/1300 Hysic CL: Unduction Bysec CL: Unduction Bysec CL: Unduction Signed Biostrated on page 22 of the catalog



**KAVANAGH FORGERY 41** 

3

#### Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918)

Iconographic work depicting Saint Joseph I Lot # 5 Painting Oll/canvas 20 x 16 cm

Hammer price: € 557 (\$ 650 ) Estimate: € 257 - € 428 (\$ 300 - \$ 500 )

Estate Antiques & Art Auction 23 jun 2018 Bruneau & Co. Cranston RI, United States KAVANAGH FORGERY 42

#### AVANAGH FURGERT 42

#### Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918)

St. George 💟 Lot # 441 Painting Oil/canvas 58 x 39 cm

Hammer price: € 287 (\$ 320 ) Price Including buyer's premium: € 358 (\$ 400 ) Starting price: € 269 (\$ 300 )

Estate Treasures Auction 30 oct 2019 Nye & Company Bloomfield NJ, United States



**KAVANAGH FORGERY 43** 

Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918) Minister and Gentleman Sharing Snuff Club # 266 Painting

Oil/canvas 60 x 50 cm Hammer price: € 333 (# 375 ) Estimate: € 710 - € 1,065 (# 800 - \$ 1,200 )

Fine Art - Mid-Century & Antiques

William J. Jenack Chester NY, United State



### **KAVANAGH FORGERY 44**

Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918) Christ and His Crown of Thorns/Depicts the Let # 1180 Painting Oll/canvas/board Hammer price: € 226 (\$ 300.)

24 aug 2014 **Burchard** Saint Petersburg FL, United States

**KAVANAGH FORGERY 45** 

### Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918)

The Violinist ♥ Lot # 518 Painting Oli/carmas 50 × 40 cm **Net sold** Estimate: € 156 - € 313 (# 200 - \$ 400 ) FURNITURE - DECORATIVE ARTS - SILVER - ASIAN - F 11 jan 2012 Leslië Hindman Inc. Chicago IL, United States Details Signed lower right



**KAVANAGH FORGERY 46** 

#### Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918)

Madonna and Child (1908) Lot # 360 Painting Oli/canvas 50 x 40 cm Hammer price: € 521 (# 750) 21 aug 2011

Burchard Saint Petersburg FL, United States Details Signed dated KAVANAGH FORGERY 47

# & JAN'11 #48

### Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918)

Cardinal & Portrait Painter □ Lot # 2205 Painting Oli/Canvas 50 x 60 cm Hammer price: C 871 (5 1.200) Estimate: C 435 - C 653 (5 600 - 5 900) 14 mar 2010 DuMouchelles



**KAVANAGH FORGERY 49** 

Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918) Modonna and Child © Lor # 160 Painting Olifcarwas 60 x 50 cm Hammer project (177 (1 200) Estimate: € 384 - € 769 (8 500 - 8 1.000) 02 feb 2007 James D. Julia Farfield ME, United States Details Signed lower right KAVANAGH FORGERY 50

#### Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918)

Portrait of Cleric Lot # 506 Painting Ol/Carwas 74 x 49 cm Hammer price: € 39 (\$ 50 ) 14 nov 2004 Antique Helper Indianapolis IN, United States Details Signed lower left

## KAVANAGH FORGERY 51

#### Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918)

Ofiara Milosci ♥ Lot # 134 Painting Ol/Carnas 101 x 75 cm **Not listed** Estimate: € 1,000 - € 1,500 **IRSF ART** 31 may 2004 **Hok Fine Art** Dublin, Ireland **Details** Signed lower right KAVANAGH FORGERY 52

Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918) Pope Pius XII © Lot # 210 Painting Oli/Canvas 51 x 41 cm

Hammer price: € 952 (*IEP* 750) Estimate: € 1,015 - € 1,269 (*IEP* 800 - *IEP* 1,000) *IRISH ART* 13 mar 2001

Whyte's ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY, Dublin, Ireland Details Signed lower right

### KAVANAGH FORGERY 53

Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918) Priste Smoking a Pipe/Priste Sewing Trouse Lot # 66 Painting Oll/camas 76 x 60 cm

Hammer price: € 1,920 (JEP 1,500 ) Estimate: € 2,304 - € 2,816 (JEP 1,800 - JEP 2,200 )

IRISH AND CONTINENTAL PÄINTINGS 12 oct 1998 Adams Blackrock Blackrock, Dublin, Ireland Details Signed

### KAVANAGH FORGERY 54

Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918)

Dutch sailboat Lot # 1 Painting Oil/canvas 50 x 40 cm

Hammer price: € 537 (\$ 590 ) Price including buyer's premium: € 591 (\$ 650 )

08 aug 1998 Robert Elwood Croul Newburgh ME, United States Details Signed lower right KAVANAGH FORGERY 55

### Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918)

The Clerics Study Lot # 1356 Painting Oil/canvas 49 x 58 cm

Hammer price: **C 979** (67.000.) Estimate: (C 175 - C 351 (67.000. 54.00.) Finel 187H & 197H C. AMERICAN & CONTINENTAL F 01 nov 1937 Wolfs Cleveland OH, United States Details

Signed lower right KAVANAGH FORGERY 56

#### Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918)

Cardinal 👳 Lot # 294 Painting Oil/canvas 101 x 71 cm

Hammer price: (\$92 (\$ 00) Estimate: (\$ 392 - (\$ 588 (\$ 500 - 1 750) PAINTINGS, WATERCOLOURS, DRAWINGS, & PRINT: 20 jul 1996 Young Fine Arts Auctions North Benvick He, United States KAVANAGH FORGERY 57

#### Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918)

The Vision of Saint Dominic Lot # 353 Painting Oil/canvas 76 x 50 cm

Hammer price: € 392 (3 500) Price including buyer's premium: € 450 (3 575) Estimate: ₹78 - € 1,176 (5 1.000 - 5 1.500) OLD MASTER AND 19th CENTURY EUROPEAN PAINT 18 jul 1996 Sotheby's New York NY, United States

Details Signed

### KAVANAGH FORGERY 58

#### Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918) The Virgin Mary Lot # 181 Painting Ol/carvas, painted oval 36 x 28 cm

Hammer price: € 118 (£ 90) Estimate: € 196 - € 262 (£ 150 - £ 200) FINE IRISH PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS 16 sep 1992 Christie's Beffast, North Ireland

Details Signed lower right

### KAVANAGH FORGERY 59

### JOSEPH MALACHY KAVANAGH MISATTRIBUTIONS

Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918) Woman by a lake Lot # 466 Parting Ol/Canas/matonte 48 x 59 cm Hammer price: C 1.071 (# 1.300) Estimate: 823 - 6 1.235 (# 1.000 - # 1.500) Whiter Male 11 feb 2021 Estimate: Last Dennik AU, United States

Details Signed "Kavanagh Paris" lo



KAVANAGH MISATTRIBUTION 1 [JOHN F. KAVANAGH c1853-98] #60

Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918) Cherry blossom time (1894) ⊡ Lot # 929 Paring OUCarvas 10 x 116 cm Hamme price: €,771 5 1000) Estimate: € 8,771 - € 17,542 (5 1000) - 28000) The Atlance Calcetion 30 apr 2016 Allers & Ogteree Auction Atlanta GA, United States Details Signed dated lower left.



KAVANAGH MISATTRIBUTION 2 [JOHN F. KAVANAGH c1853-98] #61

#### Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1856-1918)

Booting on the Seine (1888) Let # 59 Paranne Olicanas 63 x 110 cm Mamme price: C 6,940 (r 4,200) Price including bayer's permitting: Elemante C 3,304 - (457 / 2,200 - (4,200))



MODERN BRITSH AND CONTINENTAL PAINTINGS WATERCOLOURS AND DAAWING 28 sep 1988 Condon, United Kingdom Decails Signed dated Located "Parts"

KAVANAGH MISATTRIBUTION 3 [JOHN F. KAVANAGH c1853-98] #62

Joseph Malachy KAVANAGH (1855-1918) Sheep by a barn in a landscape Lot 4.03 Paoning Odhbaard 28 x 25 cm Hammee price: 41.021 (#.80) Hammee price: 41.021 (#.80) Hammee price: 41.021 (#.80) Od Mac 1902 Christies Glargow, Scottand (United Kingdom) Deals Provenance: The john Chambers Collection Bitstrated on page 50 fthe catalog



KAVANAGH MISATTRIBUTION 4 [ARTIST UNKNOWN] #63

Acknowledgement We wish to thank the Artprice company in France for their cooperation in assembling this file.

Milmo-Penny Fine Art Ltd. 55 Ailesbury Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4