10. *Dominick Sockpick, Cynthia Stepanoff, Annie and Alex Sockpick*, 2007

This family portrait brings viewers into the home of the Sockpick family in Shishmaref, Alaska. Lixenberg visited the Iñupiat (or Inuit) community of Shishmaref, in order to bring attention to the devastating effects of climate change, chief among them accelerating coastal erosion due to thawing permafrost.

Visiting twice in order to establish stronger bonds with her subjects, and to photograph under different light and weather conditions, Lixenberg made portraits of various members of the Sockpick family, both indoors and outdoors.

This scene, a chaotic family room, appears quite ordinary. However, the tapestry of Spider-Man hanging over a window indicates that this photograph may have been made during Lixenberg's springtime visit to the island, with its very specific

conditions. By the vernal equinox around March 20, most of Alaska reaches roughly 12.5 hours of daylight, paving the way for the continuous light of the midnight sun in early summer. Such a window blind might be necessary for the children to sleep comfortably.

The presence of Spider-Man in this setting also prompts us to consider the ubiquity of mainstream American culture among a population whose own cultural traditions are at risk.

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