



Motoco is an artistic production space created in 2013, which today brings together more than 120 resident artists, mainly in the visual arts. It is the largest concentration of creative studios in the Grand Est Region and one of the most significant in France.

Motoco (MOre TO COme) is 8,500m² of warm, matte brick, a hive of artists and craftspeople who work there and sometimes sting, nine shareholders who are serious-but-not-only-that, passionate people who run the place like ubiquitous tightrope walkers, local authorities who protect it, a lot of love, the occasional smack, brute force, and above all a megaton of gathered energy and talent.

Some figures, quickly listed and not all of them: building 75 of the former DMC industrial site, between 120 and 140 residents of all generations and disciplines within the visual arts, more than 10 nationalities, an image/media hub, a screen-printing studio, a woodworking workshop, an incubator, nearly 100 events per year that open the doors to more than 30,000 visitors.

A daily life without fixed hours, where everything moves very fast and where no one is afraid to combine the pursuit of excellence with intoxicating lightness, new technologies with ancestral know-how, working alone or with others with contemplating others, times open to the public with times dedicated to oneself or to one's studio neighbors.



Three official labels recognize the singularity of the project:

IBA Basel label in 2020

Cultural «Tiers-lieux» (third-place) label in 2022

ESUS label in 2025

IBA BASEL





Through several complementary activities, motoco serves a single, unified purpose: artistic creation.

The artist residency, which carries the identity of the project, benefits from deliberately extremely reduced rents (27 euros incl. tax / m² / year) and flat-rate charges disconnected from actual costs (19 euros incl. tax / m²) in order to facilitate access for artists. The deficit generated by these low revenues is offset by other activities, including an event business developed over 1,800 m², hosting 100 events per year, private or public, cultural, entrepreneurial, or leisure-oriented. The virtuous nature of this system goes beyond simple financial balance, thanks to the profitable commercial activity that compensates for the deficit caused by low charges and rents for artists:

- Creation of additional income for artists, notably through: the creation of artworks and event performances, set design, space design, running workshops, graphic design, etc. Activities that «put butter in the spinach» for artists without diverting them from their core craft.
- The opportunity for artists to experiment with technological fields where financial and technical means often hold back creation (mapping equipment, digital integration, large-scale volumes, etc.)
- Opportunities to work in teams with other artists on intensive, time-limited projects.
- Opportunities for artists to meet the public (more than 50,000 visitors per year)

Motoco's organization has four full-time positions (three employees and one corporate officer) and is structured as an ESUS SAS (a French accredited social-utility company) with 9 shareholders. The only contractual link between motoco&co and each artist is a three-year lease, renewable after review by a committee. In practice, and beyond the legal framework, a collective spirit guides the development of this entire ecosystem.

