



THE ART OF VERSATILITY

TEXT BY MA. LERIECKA ENDICO

Being a jack of all trades has worked out well for Joey Regalado. A graduate of Economics, he shifted to a career in web and graphic design after college. The self-taught creative developed his design skills through practice, reading books, researching online, watching YouTube tutorials, and learning from colleagues.

Regalado's first job was website design for a company based in Makati. From there, his career progressed from web designer, to team leader, and finally to an account manager at a BPO firm. On the recommendation of a good friend, Regalado made a big move to Dubai, UAE, where he has been living and working for 7 years. Relocation means adapting to a new environment, and adaptation it was. Realizing that graphic design had a bigger demand, he developed this skill. He is currently an in-house graphic artist for a semi-government company. Through these career changes, he was able to build up his skill set, which includes web design and development,

graphic design, 3D design, photography, and social media marketing.

Regalado is a quick study and is able to pick up new skills in a short amount of time, no matter how technical. "I don't like being stagnant. I like to learn new things," he says. He enjoys work that is creative and non-routine: "I want something new everyday. It's just what I love about the job, how you can express yourself in your art, in what you design."

Though there is the perception of being "all over the place," Regalado considers being adaptable and multi-skilled an advantage. Comparing himself to a one-stop shop, he says, "I'm well-rounded. You don't have to hire a whole team." However, it is important to know one's limits, manage your time wisely, and learn to say no to things if there's a backlog.

Regalado doesn't envision long-term employment for himself, but rather nurtures an entrepreneurial spirit. He is currently run-

ning an online shopping business that offers beauty, fashion, and fitness products. He advises millennials to take risks and start a business when they're young. "You will never get far being an employee. Focus on yourself," he says.

"If you wait to take that entrepreneurial leap when you get older, then you can't afford to make as many errors as compared to when you were young and have more time to spare. However, this should not discourage the older generation because they have more practical knowledge and their network and net worth is bigger by this time," he explains.

"Life is about building character," he adds. "When you fall, get back up...It's a cycle, but sooner or later, you'll hit the sweet spot."

Aside from becoming an entrepreneur, Regalado believes in the benefits of investing. He is an investor of JLLV Business Management Services. "You can't build a nest egg just by working, and it's not enough to just save money. Money sleeps in the bank. You have to let your money work for you."

Lastly, Regalado advises looking to God for guidance. "He has a major role in my life as He has directed every step I have taken. Sometimes when I look back, I smile in amazement at how He has moved me from place to place and has pulled me out of situations so I can be where I am today." Regalado's willingness to say yes to life and to explore new things is encapsulated by a quote from motivational speaker Les Brown: "Live full, die empty."



PHOTOS BY JOWEL LOHMANO