A Cup for a Modern-Day Symposium

Special cups were made for social gatherings in antiquity called symposia. At symposia, male citizens would gather for dinner, drinking, conversation, music, and entertainment. Create a cup that could be used at a social gathering today that would have music (i.e., a concert, community event, party, wedding).

Materials
- Self-hardening terracotta clay or Crayola® Model Magic®
- Toothpicks
- Paper
- Pencil
- Black paint
- Synthetic paint brushes
- Black pen (optional)

Steps
1. Take one ounce of clay (about the size of a fist) and roll it into a ball.

2. Push both thumbs into the center of the ball to begin molding your cup.

3. Shape your cup by pinching its sides gently with equal pressure while rotating the clay.

4. Take half an ounce of clay (about the size of a golf ball). Create a coil by using your palms and fingers to press and roll the clay until it is about one and a half feet long. Make sure the coil has an even thickness by moving your hands across the clay lengthwise. Repeat this step so you have two coils.

5. Use one coil to create the stem of your cup by twisting it into a spiral. Break the other coil into two smaller coils to create handles.
6. Join the parts of your cup together. If you are using clay, first score hatch marks onto each clay piece with a toothpick, and then firmly press the parts together. If the clay is too dry, moisten the ends with a little water to ensure that the pieces will stick to each other. If you are using Crayola® Model Magic®, you can simply press the parts together without scoring. Once the pieces are joined, you can smooth the surface of the stem with your fingers and thumb.

7. As the clay dries, think about the scene you would like to depict on the tondo (interior) of your cup. On a piece of paper, sketch a scene that relates to the intended function of the cup. For example, if the cup is intended to be used at a concert, you may wish to draw a scene of a musician and an audience member. Draw a circular frame around your scene with patterns inspired by ancient design motifs.

8. Use your preliminary sketch as a guide for your final picture. Lightly sketch your design on the tondo of your cup. Outline the figures and decorations with black paint and use a thick brush to fill in the background, leaving areas of the surface reserved for details. Use a thin brush or black pen to add details such as decorative patterns, draped fabric, and facial features.