Look closely at this colourful bowl.

What is the first color that you see? What patterns do you notice? How many different colors and patterns can you find? Can you find the bird in the bowl?

Did you know!
The bird in the center of the bowl is likely a peacock with its tail rising above its back. In Iranian culture, the peacock is often related to Paradise!

PLAY WITH CLAY OR PLAYDOUGH
Materials: Clay or playdough, pencil or stick, and a sense of play!

Taking inspiration from the above decorated bowl, make your own bowl out of clay or playdough.

Select a lump of clay or playdough about the size of your palm. Roll it between your hands to form a ball. Use your thumbs to push down and make a dip on one side of the ball. Now hold it with one hand and rotate it, while you use the thumb and fingers of the other hand to widen the dip into a pinch pot. Continue rotating the bowl and using your fingers to make the shape you want. Play with different bowl shapes! Once you have a bowl, use a stick, pencil or any sharp tool to etch different patterns and designs onto it. Play with different designs!

CHALLENGE
Can you make different geometric shapes and patterns out of clay? Can you make a bird with clay? What about calligraphy? Play with your clay to make other shapes and designs inspired by the decorated bowl. Take a photo of your creations and share with us at: learn@agakhanmuseum.org

Image (top): Bowl, Iran, 10th century, Earthenware, polychrome slip decoration under a transparent glaze, 28 × 6.3 cm, AKM543
Image (bottom): Photo by Andy Kelly on Unsplash